MEMOIRS

OF AN

Unfortunate Lady of Quality.

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VOL. I.

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THE EDITOR TO THE READER.

THE following Sheets, the intelligent Reader will be convinced, are founded on facts. The Characters are delineated

delineated with a maſterly and faithful Pencil; the Situations are natural and intereſting; and the Deſcriptions pictureſque and ſtriking.

Theſe Volumes were put into the Hands of the Editor by a certain Gentleman lately deceaſed (well-known in the literary World) for his Opinion; and finding them worthy of the public Eye, he has uſhered them to the World, that

that no Production of ſo celebrated a Genius ſhould be loſt in Oblivion.

It were needleſs to add more to obtain the Attention of the candid Reader; who, making ſome ſmall Allowance for a few Errors of the Preſs, the Editor being at a conſiderable Diſtance from Town at the Time of its being printed; he flatters himſelf it will be found, as he judged, an entertaining

tertaining Work, not unworthy a place on the Shelf with the Productions of a Fielding, a Smollet, or a Goldſmith.

MEMOIRS

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OF AN

Unfortunate Lady of Quality.

BOOK I.

IN the year 1646, at an assembly at Edinburgh, Lady Eleanor D——, sister to the Duke of D——, so powerfully attracted the attention of Sir David S——, who played the whole evening at the same table with her, that, charmed

with her incidental converſation, and the diſplay of her intellectual accompliſhments, he wiſhed before the evening was over to make her his partner for life.—Animated with that wiſh, and flattering himſelf, that he had appeared to no diſadvantage in her eyes, from the remarks which he had made upon her behaviour to him, during the amuſement of the night, he ventured, when he conducted her to her brother's carriage, to intreat in a whiſper, her permiſſion to enquire after her health the next morning.

Lady Eleanor knowing that Sir David was a man of a good family and of unblemiſhed reputation; and a man, whom her brother had often mentioned in favourable terms, did not imagine that ſhe

was

was either injuring her own character, or incurring *his* diſpleaſure, by telling him that the Duke would be glad to ſee him.

Lady Eleanor had been, indeed, ſo very well entertained by Sir David's ſenſible, ſmart and varied converſation, ſo flattered by the elegant compliments which he artfully paid to her underſtanding, and ſo captivated by the thorough politeneſs of his manners, that ſhe was not ſorry to find ſhe was far from being an object of indifference to him: ſhe was, tho' paſt the prime of life, very agreeable in her perſon; Sir David too, tho' not diſagreeable in *his*, was ſeveral years older: their ſudden and ſtrong prepoſſeſſion for each other aroſe from ſentiment more than paſſion.

Sir David when he went home to his apartments, thought too much upon lady Eleanor's wit and companionable talents, and remembered too many of the encouraging expreſſions which ſhe dropped during the courſe of the evening, to enjoy the balmy ſweets of ſleep. Scarcely, indeed, did he cloſe his eyes: his ſlumbers were confuſed, and interrupted.—He roſe long before his uſual hour, and waited with the utmoſt impatience till he could decently make his viſit to the amiable diſturber of his peace.

Lady Eleanor was accompanied at the aſſembly by a Miſs Bruce, who lived with her in the character of a companion. Miſs Bruce was in the prime of life, and very handſome; ſhe was poſſeſſed of many engaging attractions; but far

inferior

inferior to lady Eleanor in mental endowments. She was admired wherever ſhe went, but ſhe had never allured any man ſo powerfully, as to induce him to make honourable propoſals to her. The impreſſion, therefore, which her ladyſhip had made on Sir David, who, tho' not young, was a favourite among the fair ſex, hurt her not a little, but ſhe had cunning enough to conceal the envious emotions which ſhe felt upon the occaſion.

While they were riding home, Miſs Bruce congratulated lady Eleanor with the greateſt apparent cordiality, on having made ſo capital a conqueſt,—"Your ladyſhip, ſaid ſhe, will break the hearts of half the girls in Edinburgh, by attaching Sir David to yourſelf."—

Lady Eleanor, not in the leaſt ſuſpecting the ſituation of her companion's mind, while ſhe uttered that congratulating ſpeech, was too much pleaſed with the adulation which it contained, not to expreſs the ſatisfaction which ſhe had felt in Sir David's company, in terms, which, if he had heard them, would have made him the happieſt man in Scotland.

Sir David was received with great politeneſs, by the Duke of D——, and behaved in ſuch a manner as to make his Grace when he took his leave, deſire to be better acquainted with him.—

When Sir David was gone the Duke gave his ſiſter no ſmall pleaſure by telling her, that he had never ſpent a more agreeable hour with any man in his life.

Sir

Sir David was ſo highly flattered by the Duke's politeneſs to him, at his departure from his firſt viſit, that he, in a ſhort time afterwards, made a ſecond; and in every ſucceeding viſit rendered himſelf more and more agreeable, both to the Duke and to lady Eleanor: to the latter particularly, in whoſe every feature he ſoon diſcovered the ſtrongeſt encouragement to offer ſerious addreſſes to her.—As ſoon as he thought himſelf the unrivalled poſſeſſor of her heart, he ventured to ſollicit the favour of her hand.

"The firſt evening, my lady, ſaid he, one day (when they were ſauntering about the Duke's beautiful gardens, not many miles from the metropolis,) I had the honour to play at the ſame table with you, I was ſo charmed with your elegant, lively

lively, and ſenſible converſation, that I could not help wiſhing to inſpire you with feelings ſimilar to my own.—Prompted by that wiſh, I preſumed, but not without ſome timidity; ſo fearful was I of giving offence, at the very time that I longed to raiſe prepoſſeſſions in my behalf, to intreat your permiſſion to enquire after your health the following morning.—The delicate manner in which you indulged my preſumptive requeſt, I ſhall never forget: and it ſhall be the perpetual ſtudy of my future life to deſerve the many winning marks of your eſteem, which I have ſince received.

Lady Eleanor, being not a little pleaſed with the conqueſt which ſhe had made, as ſhe ever reckoned more upon her internal attainments, than her exterior accompliſhments

compliſhments, and with the manly frankneſs of her lover's behaviour, replied with the ſame openneſs, you have, by the uniform propriety of your carriage, Sir David, ſince the evening you mentioned with ſo much ſatisfaction, rendered yourſelf ſo eſtimable in my eyes, that I ſhould be guilty of the greateſt want of judgment and falſe delicacy, and ſhould not merit the high opinion you have of me, were I not ready to confeſs, that I think myſelf happy in having engaged the attention of a man of your intrinſic worth.—But, notwithſtanding my partiality in your favour, I cannot bring myſelf to give encouragement to your addreſſes, without my brother's concurrence.—— I ſcorn to deceive any body: *you*, Sir David, who have behaved with ſo much honour and ingenuouſneſs, are certainly, of all people, entitled

titled to plain dealing from me.—I muſt, therefore, inform you, that I am entirely dependent on the Duke, and that, conſequently, if I give you my hand without *his* approbation, I ſhall only become a burthen to you.

"You wrong me much, my dear lady Eleanor, interrupted Sir David, by talking in this ſtrain, for you thereby muſt neceſſarily ſuppoſe that I am urged to make my addreſſes to you from intereſted motives.—Be not ſwayed by any ſuppoſitions of that kind, do not harbour ſuch cruel, ſuch injurious ſuſpicions."

"I do not wrong you, Sir David, replied ſhe: I do not harbour any injurious ſuſpicions, but the generoſity of your behaviour forbids me to be unjuſt, which I ſhould

ſhould be if I concealed the ſituation of my circumſtances from you: if you are not ſhocked at *that* ſituation: if you can procure the Duke's approval, my hand ſhall be, as my heart is, in your poſſeſſion."——

Sir David, charmed with the noble freedom of her behaviour, and doubly charmed to find that he was become as neceſſary to *her* happineſs, as *ſhe* was to *his*, gently ſeized the hand which ſhe had preſſed to her boſom, in order to enforce the concluſion of her ſpeech, and after having reſpectfully kiſſed it, returned her his ſincereſt thanks for her own conſent to the completion of his wiſhes, with which he was, he ſaid, thoroughly ſatisfied, not apprehending any oppoſition from her brother, as he diſcovered on all occaſions

ſuch

ſuch ſtriking, and pleaſing proofs of fraternal affection.—" I will, continued he, embrace the firſt opportunity, to procure the Duke's approbation, and am ſanguine enough to believe that I ſhall without difficulty obtain it."

In conſequence of this determination, Sir David, ſeeing the Duke advancing, with Miſs Bruce, intreated a private interveiw with him, and left the two ladies to chat by themſelves.

While the Duke and Sir David, retired to an Alcove, lady E——, communicated what had paſſed between her and her lover, to Miſs Bruce, intermixing many encomiums on his diſintereſted behaviour, and wiſhing in the fullneſs of her heart, and with all the freedom of friendſhip,

ſhip, that his interview with her brother might be attended with the wiſhed for ſucceſs.——

Miſs Bruce, tho' the encomiums upon Sir David cut her to the ſoul, as ſhe had not been able to allure him by the beauties of her perſon, or the *agremens* of her carriage, from his attachment to lady Eleanor, joined warmly in the praiſes which ſhe laviſhly beſtowed on him, and hoped with an earneſtneſs which might well be miſtaken for ſincerity, that two perſons ſo happily formed for each other, would meet with no obſtacles to prevent their union:—But ſhe ſecretly reſolved, to uſe all her endeavours to break off the match as ſoon as the Duke, whoſe approbation they waited for, had aſſented to it.

When

When the Duke and Sir David had ſeated themſelves in the alcove, the latter addreſſed the former in the following terms.

" I ſhould very much under-rate your Grace's penetration, if I ſuppoſed, that my prepoſſeſſion in favour of your amiable ſiſter, has been unnoticed by you—I have, indeed, the trueſt eſteem for that lady, and am happy to find that ſhe beholds me in a partial light: but ſhe will not conſent to complete my happineſs without your approbation. I have no pretenſions, either from rank or fortune to an alliance with the duke of D——."

" Hold, Sir David, ſaid the duke, you ſpring from a family to which kings might be allied without being diſgraced—But ſetting

ſetting aſide your family connections, your own character is too brilliant to ſuffer me to frame an objection to the union between you and Eleanor, whoſe happineſs I have very much at heart— Take her therefore, as ſoon as you pleaſe, and treat her if you can, as well as ſhe deſerves to be treated.— I ſhall only inſiſt upon her granting me one requeſt; but that requeſt I muſt reſerve for her own ear."—

Sir David, could not refrain, ſo impetuous were the ſenſations of joy in his breaſt, from graſping the duke's hand which was next to him, and declaring with a ſpirited preſſure of it, that he ſhould ever moſt gratefully acknowledge but never be able to repay, the obligations which he was under to him, for confirming his felicity."

He,

He, then, went in ſearch of lady Eleanor whom he accoſted with ſuch an air of triumph in his looks, that Miſs Bruce not being able to bear the ſight of *them*, or of thoſe with which they animated the countenance of lady Eleanor, quitted the mortifying ſpot and retired to her own apartment, full of malevolent deſigns.—

As Sir David was eager to ſelicitate lady Eleanor on his ſucceſsful interview with her brother, he left the duke far behind him, who, not being quickened by the ſpur of love, walked on ſoberly in his uſual pace: he ſoon, however, found himſelf in their company, for lady Eleanor when ſhe had received her lover's communications, hurried towards him to pour out her grateful effuſions.

"I

"I am ſatisfied, my dear Eleanor, ſaid the Duke: and with Sir David's permiſſion, will have a little private chat with you:—

He then took hold of her hand, and led her to the very alcove in which he had made Sir David ſo happy—"In this place, I made your lover happy, ſaid he, a few minutes ago, and in this place, I hope to make you more ſo than you have hitherto been; Sir David has doubtleſs told you that I ſhould inſiſt upon your granting me one requeſt:—will you give me leave to double your penſion?—Nay, I *muſt* have your conſent, or poſitively I will retract my approbation."

Lady Eleanor was ſo ſtruck with the duke's generoſity, and ſo fluttered by the

agreeable ſenſations which it occaſioned, that ſhe wanted words to expreſs her gratitude—— "Ah! brother, ſaid ſhe, you overpower me with your kindneſs—— How ſhall I deſerve it?"

"By making this gentleman, ſaid he, "pointing to Sir David, a good wife."

"If that is the way to deſerve your af-"fections, replied Sir David, your Grace "will never find her unworthy of it."

A few days before *that* pitched upon, for the celebration of the nuptials between Sir David and lady Eleanor, the duke of D—— darted into the apartment of the latter in a violent hurry, and told her with a terrifying tone, that if ſhe either had regard for herſelf, or expected the continuation

tinuation of his friendſhip, ſhe muſt break off her engagements with Sir David S—.

The aſtoniſhment which ſeized lady Eleanor, when her brother delivered ſo cruel a ſpeech in the moſt peremptory accents, bereaved her of the power of utterance, ſhe ſtood aghaſt before him, trembled, and was dumb.——

"You may well be ſurprized," continued he, "at this ſudden alteration in "my ſentiments concerning your lover; "but when you have heard the charge a- "gainſt him, you will not be able to de- "fend his conduct without diſcovering a "meanneſs of ſpirit, which will render "you a diſgrace to your family. He has "not behaved like a gentleman. Having thus ſpoken, he put a letter into

" her hands, and left her to peruſe the
" contents of it, repeatedly declaring that
" Sir David ſhould never enter *his* houſe
" again."

Lady Eleanor having peruſed the ſuperſcription, which was to a girl whom Sir David had often mentioned occaſionally in a compaſſionating way, as ſhe was of an amiable diſpoſition, had been well brought up, but was reduced to very ſtrait circumſtances, by the imprudence of her parents, fully expected, from what her brother had hinted, to find that Sir David had entered into ſome written agreement with her, from which he could not honourably recede: —— The ſuperſcription apparently of his own hand writing, (for ſhe had ſeveral of his letters in her cabinet), favoured ſuch an expec-

expectation —— ſhe opened the fold, therefore, with impatience, but I will not attempt to deſcribe her ſurprize when the incloſure proved to be one of SirDavid's letters to herſelf.——In vain, did ſhe ſtretch her faculties to account for its being taken out of her poſſeſſion, and for its being employed to ſo infamous a purpoſe.—It was the moſt affectionate one ſhe had ever received from him, and the duke had certainly reaſon to be alarmed, and ſcandalized at Sir David's behaviour, by comparing the letter with the ſuperſcription, between which there was a ſtriking reſemblance. While ſhe was plunged into the depths of reflection by an incident of ſo extraordinary a nature, totally at a loſs to know by whoſe unfriendly offices ſhe had received a blow ſo fatal to her peace, for that a

ſecret enemy had been induſtriouſly buſy, and maliciouſly active very near her, ſhe could not but be well aſſured; Miſs Bruce entered the room, and in the moſt pitying accents condoled with her upon the ſtrange behaviour of her lover, diſcovered by the letter which had fallen into her brother's hands.—"I never ſaw "him," continued ſhe, "ſo much in-"cenſed againſt any body, as he is at "preſent againſt Sir David; he ſtorms "like a fury; and, indeed, I muſt own "that I am extremely ſorry to find that "your lover, whom I always deemed a "man of the ſtricteſt honour, has prov-"ed ſo unworthy of you: 'tis very "lucky, however, my dear lady Eleanor, "that you are acquainted with his "unworthineſs before your marriage "with him."—

"Why

"Why, do you run on, my dear "Bruce," ſaid her ladyſhip, "with ſo "much vehemence againſt a man who "has done nothing to deſerve the "ſeverity of your cenſures."

"He has done nothing, indeed, "to merit my particular cenſures, be-"cauſe I am not the perſon imme-"diately injured by the baſeneſs of his "conduct, but my reſentment is kin-"dled againſt him, on your account, "you have been ſhamefully abuſed."

"My brother has been, rather "ſay, ſhamefully abuſed---Oh, Bruce! "ſtifle your reſentment againſt a man "who has in no ſhape acted a diſ-"honourable part.

"How,

" How, my lady, did he not write " the letter which has occaſioned ſo " much uneaſineſs to you?

" He wrote it, certainly, but not to " the perſon mentioned in the ſuper- " ſcription.

" You amaze me."

" You will be more amazed, when I " tell you, that the letter was actually " addreſſed to me: I received it a few " days ago, but ſomebody of an en- " vious diſpoſition having either found " it in the houſe accidentally, or crimi- " nally gained poſſeſſion of it, has, by " forging a cover for it, inflamed the " duke ſo cruelly both againſt Sir David " and me, that I tremble to think of the " conſequences

" conſequences---You are, as well as
" I, acquainted with his fiery temper,
" and are not to be told how obſtinately
" attached he is to opinions which have
" once found entrance into his mind."

" In this caſe, however, you will,
" I imagine, without difficulty appeaſe
" his wrath by convincing him that
" Sir David's letter had been really ad-
" dreſſed to yourſelf, but maliciouſly
" in a forged hand, re addreſſed another
" woman."

" Were the duke of another turn,
" I might hope to triumph over the un-
" generous attempt to render two in-
" nocent people moſt unhappy, but
" much am I afraid that his perverſity
" upon this occaſion will baffle all *my*
" efforts

" efforts to undeceive him—But I *muſt*
" I will endeavour," continued ſhe,
" to clear up this affair to his ſatiſ-
" faction."

She then went with the letter and the falſe cover to it, in order to prove the unjuſtneſs of the accuſation againſt her lover by the force of truth, leaving Miſs Bruce in a very different ſtate of mind, for ſhe had left her enjoying the ſtorm which ſhe had raiſed, with an execrable delight.

Miſs Bruce, it has been already ſaid, was greatly hurt by Sir David's attachment to lady Eleanor: ſhe was, indeed, ſo much diſquieted by that attachment, preſuming upon the ſuperiority of her perſonal charms, that ſhe could not bear

bear to think of their approaching felicity: ſhe wiſhed to cauſe a ſeparation between them before the wedding day, and ſhe ſpent all her time in contriving to carry her point. While ſhe ſo employed her parts, ſhe one morning picked up the letter above-mentioned, which entirely favoured her deſigns; for, tho' it was penned with all the warmth of a lover, lady Eleanor's name was not once written in it, and it was incloſed in a cover to her, ſo that Miſs Bruce had nothing to do, but to make a new ſuperſcription, and by having with great diligence ſtudied Sir David's hand, ſhe actually counterfeited it with ſuch accuracy, that the forgery could not be eaſily detected.

Lady

Lady Eleanor, when ſhe found herſelf in private with her brother, held out the letter in her hand, and was going to vindicate the writer of it, but the fierceneſs in his looks terrified her to ſuch a degree, that inſtead of ſpeaking ſhe burſt into tears.

"You may well weep, Eleanor," ſaid he, "at the treachery of her lo-
"ver. Peggy Roſs is the girl of his
"heart, the plaything for the amuſe-
"ment of his ſofter hours; *you* are only
"intended to be his convenient wife;
"to throw a luſtre upon his family,
"and to better his fortune: well-
"knowing my affection for you, he
"hopes to increaſe his conſequence by
"an alliance with my houſe."

As

As the duke uttered the latter part of his ſpeech in a ſneering tone, every word in it was a dagger to the heart of lady Eleanor, tho' ſhe was thoroughly ſatisfied that every word was falſe and and injurious to her lover. Doubly cutting to her were her brother's ſevere reflections, becauſe ſhe feared that her endeavours to correct the error which had occaſioned them, would prove fruitleſs. His paſſionate appearance before diſconcerted, his cool ſarcaſtical behaviour now unnerved her.

After having remained, however, for a few moments in a collected attitude, while the duke walked up and down the room with a diſturbed motion, ſhe made a grand effort to ſpeak, juſtly conjecturing

turing that her continued ſilence would only tend to ſtrengthen his deception.

" Brother," ſaid ſhe, with a ſteady voice, " you have been deceived."

" Deceived," cried he, firing at the word, " When? where? how? by " whom?

" Do not be ſo impetuous," replied ſhe, " give me but a patient hearing, " and I will convince you, if you are " not dead to conviction, that you have " accuſed Sir David S——, moſt wrong- " fully?

" How, Eleanor, accuſed him wrong- " fully?—Take care—be not too haſty " with your defence—Have you not a " glaring

" glaring proof of his baſeneſs in your " hand?

" I have a proof, brother, of his " ſincereſt affection."

" Affection!—ay; prodigious affec- " tion, indeed—But not for thee, " Eleanor.

"Yes; for *me*," replied ſhe, with a compoſure in her looks, and a firmneſs of accent which threw the duke into a poſture ſtrongly expreſſive of perplexity.

" Surely, my dear ſiſter," cried he, after a ſhort pauſe, with his eyes rivetted upon the ſuperſcription of the letter, " You cannot be ſerious—Am I not " awake

" awake? Do I not at this inſtant ſee
" the name of Peggy Roſs written by
" Sir David?

" You do, indeed, ſee *her* name, but
" not written by that gentleman."

" Nay now, you are certainly not
" in your perfect ſenſes; or want to
" perſuade me that I have loſt my
" ſight."

Lady Eleanor then delivered the letter, and the diſputed cover, to her brother, and deſired him to compare the hands with the ſtricteſt attention: " Upon a cloſe examination you will " find that the ſame perſon did not " write the letter and the ſuperſcrip- " tion."—" The letter," continued ſhe,

" was

" was written by Sir David to me;
" but who incloſed it in another cover,
" and forged another *addreſs*, I will
" not pretend to ſay."

" Forged?" ſaid the duke, with a contemptuous ſmile, " No; no, Elea-
" nor, if there is a forgery in the caſe,
" I will forfeit my eſtate; I know Sir
" David's hand too well to be miſ-
" taken, and I cannot help wondering
" at your meanneſs in trying to excul-
" pate him in ſo ſtrange a manner.
" But if *you* can put up with his cava-
" lier behaviour to you, *I cannot*, and
" therefore ſhall inſiſt upon his never
" being admitted here again. Here,
" take the letter, and endeavour to
" forget a man who deſerves not to
" be remembered by you."

At the concluſion of this ſpeech, he ruſhed out of the room, without waiting for a reply, and left his ſiſter in the moſt undeſirable ſituation to be conceived.

She retired, ſorrowing, to her own apartment, ſhe ſaw Miſs Bruce coming out of *her's*.---"Oh, Bruce!" ſaid ſhe, "what will become of me?---My bro-"ther is not to be convinced---Sir "David is baniſhed from the houſe, "and I am truly wretched."

"Do not give yourſelf up to dejec-"tion, my dear lady Eleanor; the duke "may, perhaps, be perſuaded, when "he is in a cooler mood, to acknow-"ledge himſelf in the wrong, and to "revoke his orders with regard to Sir "David: he is at preſent too much

"heated

" heated by the ſuppoſed affront to his " family, to hear of any thing in the " lover's favour: but time, probably, " may ſtand your friend. Can I afford " you any aſſiſtance in this ugly affair: " believe me, my dear lady Eleanor, " I would gladly make myſelf ſervice- " able to you, in order to make you " happy."

" There is no more happineſs for me " in this world, my dear Bruce! but " I am extremely obliged to you for " offering your friendly ſervices."

In this diſpirited way, lady Eleanor proceeded to her chamber, and there committed to paper the unfortunate tranſactions of the morning, for her lover's peruſal. When ſhe had finiſhed

her letter, ſhe diſpatched it to Sir David, by her own woman, who had been a faithful ſervant of her mother's, and in whom ſhe could with the greateſt ſafety confide.

Sir David, with the greateſt aſtoniſhment and vexation, read the contents of lady Eleanor's epiſtle: he could hardly give credit to them on a firſt peruſal; and after having reviewed them ſeveral times, was under the greateſt perplexity imaginable to gueſs at the ſecret enemy who had ſo cruelly daſhed the cup of happineſs from him, when it was ſo near his lips.

Lady Eleanor, at her lover's requeſt, renewed her endeavours to undeceive the duke, and availed herſelf of the ſofteſt

ſeaſon

ſeaſon of addreſs, to render thoſe endeavours ſucceſsful; but they proved totally ineffectual. He obſtinately continued to believe, in ſpite of her moſt ſolemn declarations, that the letter which had ſo irritated him againſt Sir David, had been originally directed to herſelf.

Sir David, deſpairing of ever being united to lady Eleanor with her brother's approbation, propoſed a private marriage to her, and preſſed her ſo much with affectionate importunity to compleat his felicity, that ſhe, after a great deal of reflection upon the diſagreeable conſequences, with which clandeſtine proceedings of that kind are frequently attended, complied with his intreaties, becauſe ſhe found, upon a ſcrutiny into the movements of her heart, that her eſteem for

him over-balanced all the obſtacles which her timidity had raiſed in oppoſition to them. They were acccordingly married privately, at the houſe of a Mrs. Weddeburn, a common friend to them both, who, with a Mr. and Mrs. Ingram, common friends likewiſe, were the only witneſſes to the ceremony, which was conducted with ſuch ſecrecy, that not a ſervant in the family was privy to it.

After their marriage, they had frequent meetings, and were for a few weeks extremely happy in their ſtolen interviews, but lady Eleanor growing very uneaſy leſt their connection ſhould, by ſome accident be diſcovered, Mrs. Weddeburn, to whom, as well as to her huſband, ſhe communicated her apprehenſions; told her, that as ſhe was going to the

the German Spa, for the benefit of her health, ſhe might either accompany her to that place, or ſtay in France till her return from thence, and by ſo doing enjoy Sir David's company, without giving the duke room to be alarmed at her retreat from him.

Mrs. Weddeburn's propoſal ſeemed to be ſo happily calculated for the removal of the uneaſineſs, which ſhe felt in a place where ſhe every hour dreaded the diſcovery of her marriage with Sir David, that ſhe embraced it with a great deal of pleaſure---Sir David himſelf was quite charmed with it.

Lady Eleanor, very luckily, thro' her exceſſive caution, had not informed even Miſs Bruce of her marriage, fearing that

ſhe ſhould from an imprudent zeal in her behalf, drop ſome hints before the duke, in the warmth of friendſhip, which might lead him to conclude, that ſhe had pleaſed herſelf without paying any regard to his admonitions or reproofs.

Luckily for her alſo, the duke, when ſhe informed him of the Spa party, highly approved of it, and told her, that if ſhe would never marry Sir David S——, the penſion which he intended to ſettle upon her, if ſhe *had* married him, ſhould be punctually remitted to her.

Lady Eleanor, not thinking that a little mental reſervation was in her circumſtances criminal, tho' upon any other occaſion, ſhe would have been ſhocked at the thoughts of double-dealing with a brother

brother who had been ſo kind to her, aſſured the duke that ſhe would never marry Sir David, and, after having returned him her ſincereſt thanks for his liberality, made preparations for her departure.

Unluckily, however, lady Eleanor was going to hazard the demolition of all her deſigns, by inviting Miſs Bruce to be her companion in the *tour*, but as the duke told her, in a laughing way, that if ſhe took Miſs Bruce from him, he ſhould have nobody to ſpeak to, ſhe ſet off without her: her faithful woman, Mrs. Crawford, and two maid ſervants, were the only perſons in the family whoſe attendance upon her, ſhe deſired.

In conſequence of a plan of operation pre-concerted between Sir David and lady Eleanor, the former took poſt-horſes, and rode away to York, at which city, the latter promiſed to meet him with all poſſible expedition. After their junction, they cohabited with as much privacy, as if they had been ſurrounded by ſpies, and were as cautious in concealing the intimacy of their connection with each other in England, as they had been in Scotland: with the ſame circumſpection, as they were ſtill actuated by the ſame motives, they behaved when they arrived upon the Continent.

Mrs. Weddeburn finding herſelf, upon her arrival at Paris, too ill to proceed to Aix-la-Chapelle, was under the neceſſity of

of taking the advice of the phyſicians of that city: but after having been for ſeveral months impriſoned in her chamber, was herſelf almoſt as unable to purſue her journey, as ſhe was on her firſt applications to them.

The confinement of Mrs. Weddeburn having been occaſioned by her ill-ſtate of health affected lady Eleanor very much, as ſhe had a great regard for her; but ſhe was not unhappily ſituated at Paris, tho' ſhe often wiſhed, that ſhe could have publicly appeared in the character of a wife, as ſhe met two families there with whom ſhe was intimately acquainted, who were entirely her friends, and to whom ſhe could, therefore, ſafely impart the ſecret of her marriage.

Sir Archibald Selkirk, with his lady and daughter, and Mr. and Mrs. Elphinſtone were the families, from whoſe agreeable ſociety ſhe received great ſatisfaction; and they all contributed to leſſen the irkſomeneſs of Mrs. Weddeburn's confinement, when ſhe was well enough to bear the fatigue of company, even of her friends; for there are times when we may not be able to endure the converſation even of thoſe for whom we have the higheſt eſteem.

When Mrs. Weddeburn had been about eight months at Paris, ſhe was ſo well recovered from the diſorder which had rendered her reſidence there abſolutely neceſſary, that her phyſicians adviſed her to purſue her journey to Aix-la-

la-Chapelle without delay, leſt a relapſe ſhould retard it.

Lady Eleanor, very glad to find her amiable friend ready to undertake her journey to the *Spa*, prepared, with Sir David's approbation and aſſiſtance, to acompany her; but when every thing was in readineſs, on the very morning fixed for their ſetting out, ſhe was ſeized with ſuch violent pains, that ſhe could not poſſibly execute her intentions.

Mrs. Weddeburn was very loth to leave her behind, but as lady Eleanor told her, that her delay might be attended with fatal conſequences, and that ſhe would certainly follow her when ſhe was in a travelling condition, the two friends parted with mutual good wiſhes.

Lady

Lady Eleanor, feeling herſelf quite free from any ails the next day, acquainted Sir David with the ſtrong deſire which ſhe had to follow her friend, but he, very rationally imagining, from the nature of her complaints on the preceeding morning, that her pains would return before they had travelled many leagues, ſo earneſtly, and ſo affectionately, intreated her to give up all thoughts of her journey 'till ſhe was, with the bleſſing of Providence, eaſed of her burthen: that ſhe was all compliance, and plainly ſhewed, by the manner in which ſhe acquieſced with his urgent intreaties, how much his tender apprehenſions had increaſed her affection for him.

Sir David was perfectly right in his conjectures, for, in a few hours after he had

had prevailed on her to grant his requeſt, ſhe was too diſordered to ſit up: happily Lady Selkirk, and Mrs. Elphinſtone were both with her when her indiſpoſition returned, whoſe kind aſſiſtance was of infinite ſervice to her.

Sir David and lady Eleanor, had given many ſtriking proofs to their friends of their ſincere attachment to each other, but it was at that particular juncture, ſo intereſting to them both, that their conjugal love appeared in its full luſtre: a more amiable picture of wedded life was never exhibited: ſo aſſiduous was he about her, ſo careful was he to provide every thing proper for her delicate ſituation, and ſo anxious was he for her ſafety in the hour of trial, and ſo eager was he to gratify her every wiſh, which by dint of

of penetration he generally diſcovered, before it was articulated, that he doubly endeared himſelf to her, and greatly, by theſe perpetual attentions, and marks of ſincere ſollicitude, raiſed his conjugal character in the eyes of the amiable ladies by whom ſhe was attended.——

In about a week after ſhe had been detained from the Spa journey, lady Eleanor, when ſhe had ſuffered as ſevere a conflict with nature as ever woman endured, brought two ſons into the world: the births of whom filled Sir David with various, and very different emotions.—They were both fine children, and he felt all thet ranſports of a fond father, at the ſight of them, but thoſe tranſports were conſiderably damped by the ſenſations of the huſband: theſe ſenſations over-pow-

ered

ered all others, and, almoſt bereaved him of his intellects.—Lady Eleanor lay near four and twenty hours in the moſt dangerous condition: during thoſe hours of racking uncertainty, he could neither eat, drink or ſleep: he was reſtleſs to the laſt degree, he raved; there was a ſavage wildneſs in his looks, and in his whole demeanor was forcibly deſcribed the anguiſh of his ſoul.—His affliction was ſo exquiſite, ſo extreme, that he could not bear to be a moment from her: hardly could he be torn from her bedſide even when delicacy required his abſence.—

By ſuch an agitated, ſuch a frantic deportment, he gave the ſtrongeſt proofs of the acuteneſs of his feelings, and of the agony under which he ſmarted; but he

at the ſame time affected lady Eleanor, in ſuch a manner, that ſhe frequently begged him, if he prized her life, to leave the room, and not render her ſufferings inſupportable by his pathetic bewailings.

When Sir David, was informed that the phyſicians had pronounced her to be out of danger, the ſudden change which that gladdening intelligence occaſioned in his feelings, produced an alteration in his behaviour, which rendered him almoſt diſtracted with exceſſive delight. — His countenance which was before clouded with the thickeſt gloom, was inſtantaneouſly illuminated, and he looked, altogether, like a new creature; another being; as if he had actually undergone a *perſonal* metamorphoſis.— He flew to her chamber, and having thereon his knees

knees poured out the fervent effuſions of his grateful heart, for her deliverance from the jaws of death, he hurried to congratulate her upon the animating occaſion tears, of joy, however, ſtarting into his eyes prevented him for ſome moments from expreſſing the happineſs of his heart, but in tender preſſures of her hand, and inarticulate murmurs.— Lady Eleanor, was too much moved herſelf at the check which the extremity of his joy had given to the power of utterance, that ſhe could only return his preſſure with equal ardour, and in broken accents convince him that her felicity was ſuperior to deſcription.

Sir David, hearing the infant voices of his children, while he was almoſt diſſolved in tenderneſs over their amiable

mother, was rouzed from his melting ſituation; and his attention was inſenſibly drawn to that part of the room, from whence the cries of innocence ſtruck his charmed ears.—"Are not theſe ſweet "ſounds," ſaid he, addreſſing himſelf "to lady Eleanor, "delighting be-"yond expreſſion?" Then, riſing up, he ſprung towards the little cherubs, without waiting for her anſwer, took them alternately in his arms, and gave a looſe to his paternal ſenſibility: when he had, for ſome time gazed at them with unutterable fondneſs, and made their pretty cheeks look inflamed with the eager repetition of his violent kiſſes, he carried them, by turns, to the bedſide, and held them forward to their ſofter parent, who with ſimilar feelings, as a wife; but with keener feelings as a woman,

embraced

embraced them with ſupreme ſatisfaction, but mingled tears with her embraces, as if ſhe had a preſentiment, that as they advanced in years, ſhe ſhould have more reaſon to weep than to rejoice.

Lady Eleanor recovered apace: the children throve, and Sir David wanted nothing to complete his happineſs as a huſband and as a father; the duke of D——s, having not only written his approbation of the marriage, tho' it had been conſummated without either his knowledge or conſent, but promiſed to ſettle a conſiderable eſtate upon the firſt child which was produced by it.——

As the pregnancy of lady Eleanor began to be too viſible to be hidden, ſoon

after her arrival at Paris, her connection with Sir David, could no longer be concealed without the loſs of her reputation. —All farther precautions, therefore, became unneceſſary: the maſk was immediately thrown off, and they appeared every where in public, from that time, as man and wife.

It was then, alſo deemed neceſſary, both by Sir David and lady Eleanor to make a fair diſcovery of their union to the duke, and to ſollicit his approval of it, as his friendſhip upon the occaſion was an object of too much conſequence to be diſregarded —

When they communicated their intentions to Sir Archibald Selkirk, that gentleman, who ſtood very high in the duke's

duke's eſtimation, undertook to be their advocate, and to bring about a reconcilement. He accordingly wrote a letter to his old friend, at D—— Caſtle, repreſented his new relation to him in ſo favourable a light, and ſpoke of his ſiſter in ſuch exalted terms, that he not only pardoned them both in a letter under his own hand, for their union in oppoſition to his will, but made the abovementioned generous promiſe on the birth of the firſt child:—adding, that he was convinced, he had been too haſty in his impeachment of Sir David's honour, and in ſlighting his ſiſters evidence in his favour, and that he wiſhed them both, all poſſible felicity.—

From the receipt of the duke's fraternal epiſtle, to the lying-in of lady Elea-

nor, near ſix months elapſed, during which no diſpatches arrived from D—— caſtle; but as the duke's ſilence was attributed to engagements with his lawyers, and his tenants, which engroſſed his attention, and which prevented him from writing letters of a domeſtic nature, it occaſioned neither ſurprize nor uneaſineſs.——

On the birth of his two boys, Sir David deemed it highly proper to acquaint his brother in-law with ſo happy an event, and he flattered himſelf, that it would draw the bonds of friendſhip cloſer between them. He, therefore, informed him of it, in a letter, as ſoon as lady Eleanor was in a recovering way, for till then he was in too great a flurry of ſpirits, in too diſturbed a ſtate of mind,

to

to think of any perſon but her, for whom only he wiſhed to breathe.

When lady Eleanor was quite recovered, Sir David told her, that he would with the greateſt pleaſure, wait on her to the Spa. "The journey thither, my "deareſt life," ſaid he, "by exhibiting "a variety of new ſcenes will agreeably "amuſe your mind, and the diverſions "at a place, frequented by the beſt "company in Europe, will tend to make "your reſidence there totally eligible: "you are ſure of Mrs. Weddeburn's "lively converſation, and you will pro-"bably fall in with ſeveral of your "friends."—

"You are abſolutely the beſt huſ-"band in the world; my dear, Sir Da-"vid,"

"vid," ſaid ſhe, "You always ſave me "the trouble of expreſſing my wiſhes by "words, and you are always ready to "gratify them.—How very good you "are!—On the Spa journey, I had, you "knew, ſet my heart, before my con-"finement, and you now ſhew the kind-"eſt attention to my happineſs by re-"propoſing ſo pleaſurable an excurſion."

In a few days afterwards, they ſet out for Aix-la-Chapelle, accompanied by Sir Archibald and his family: leaving their twins to the care of Mrs. Elphinſtone, who would, they were well aſſured, behave as affectionately to them, as ſhe had done to her own children.

Thoroughly ſatisfied, with having left their ſons Arthur and Reginald in ſuch excellent

excellent hands, they parted not from them without reluctance, but without the warmeſt effuſions of parental affection.—Their laſt words were prayers to heaven for the preſervation of them; but their laſt looks are not to be deſcribed.—

We muſt now ſhift the ſcene from France to Scotland, and relate the moſt intereſting occurrences which happened at D—— caſtle after the retreat of lady Eleanor from it.

Miſs Bruce, after the departure of lady Eleanor, in order to inſinuate herſelf farther into the duke's favour, endeavoured with all the art ſhe was miſtreſs of to widen the breach already made, by the (ſuppoſed) diſhonourable behaviour of Sir David S——, between him and his

his ſiſter.—She was perpetually throwing out little invidious ſpeeches, to leſſen her in his eyes, and aggravating thoſe parts of her carriage, before ſhe quitted the caſtle, which had, ſhe knew, whetted the edge of his reſentment againſt her.—As there was nobody but herſelf about the duke, with whom he converſed upon a familiar footing, ſhe was certainly in a ſituation advantageous to her deſigns, and ſhe had too much cunning not to ſee every advantage which that ſituation afforded.

The duke was of a retired turn; he was not fond of mixed company: he loved books; and, from having met with frequent diſappointments in his connections with the world, had rather a tendency to miſanthropy. To books, in-

indeed, he had always a ſtrong attachment, and they had not a little contributed to increaſe his diſguſt againſt ſociety, becauſe he hardly found any of his living companions capable of yielding that entertainment and improvement which he received in his converſations, if I may uſe the expreſſion, with his favourite dead ones.

Over ſuch a man, Miſs Bruce flattered herſelf, that ſhe ſhould gain the aſcendant to ſuch a degree, as to mould him entirely to her will; but ſhe flattered herſelf in vain; for, tho' he had been greatly irritated againſt his ſiſter, he was not of ſo ductile a diſpoſition, as to believe all that Miſs Bruce urged to her diſcredit. People who plume themſelves upon their

ſuperior

ſuperior ſagacity are often taken in the ſnares which they ſpread for the entanglement of others.

Miſs Bruce having blackened lady Eleanor, one day with an uncommon virulence, the duke, who was not an ill-natured man, tho' liable to ſee objects in unaccountable lights, ſtopped her in the midſt of her condemnation, by ſaying, "Hold, hold, Bruce—not ſo faſt, if you "pleaſe—I cannot poſſibly believe, that "my ſiſter is the woman you paint her; "but, if ſhe is even worſe than ſhe is made "to appear by your horrible colouring, "*you*, for whom ſhe had a particular "eſteem, and of whom ſhe always ſpoke "in the moſt favourable terms, ſhould "be the laſt perſon in the world to vi-"lify her."

Miſs

Miſs Bruce, ſuddenly ſmote by the juſtneſs, as well as the keenneſs of the duke's reproof, hung down her head, coloured, and was in the utmoſt confuſion; unable to raiſe her eyes from the floor, unable to open her lips.—Not having been prepared for ſo ſmart a check to her calumny, ſhe loſt all her natural preſence of mind, and could not articulate a ſyllable in her defence. The blow was ſo heavy, that it ſtunned her: ſhe felt herſelf totally ſilenced by the tremendous voice of truth.

The duke, while the eyes of Miſs Bruce were fixed upon the ground, marked the agitation into which his laſt ſpeech had plunged her, with the minuteſt attention; and while he ſo marked it, made reflections upon it, not at all to her hon-

honour. Seeing her ſtill bluſhing and abaſhed, he aroſe, and having ſaid to her, "Fie, fie, Bruce; the ſhame with "which you are covered, ſufficiently "proves that you have not deſerved the "confidence which I have hitherto re-"poſed in you." Left the room, and left her in a condition the moſt mortifying to be imagined.

The parting words which the duke uttered, penetrated her ſoul; ſhe ſtarted from the humbled poſture in which ſhe had remained, till her accuſer retired from her, afraid to look in his face; becauſe ſhe was but too ſenſible that ſhe merited his accuſation, and in the agony of diſappointment, cried out, "Fool, fool, "that I was, to lay myſelf open to ſo juſt "a rebuke, and to be ſo affected by it

after-

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When ſhe had uttered theſe words, in an audible ſoliloquy, ſhe quitted the room, in order to throw herſelf in the duke's way, and to repair the error which ſhe had, thro' indiſcretion, committed.

The firſt perſon, whom ſhe beheld, as ſoon as ſhe had cloſed the door after her, was the ſervant, who had connived at,

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and aſſiſted her, in the forgery, which had occaſioned the departure of lady Eleanor.

She fell back a few paces, at the ſight of *Maggie*, as if ſhe had trod upon a Scorpion; from a ſudden apprehenſion that ſhe had entirely excluded a recovery of the duke's favour, by a full confeſſion of the iniquitous tranſactions above-mentioned.—Guilt and timidity, are generally aſſociated.

Preſuming too much on the influence which ſhe had over over the duke, and upon the power, which he had delegated to her, as a ſuper-intendant over his domeſtic affairs; ſhe, in the vanity of her heart, aſpired to ſhare the honours of his coronet with him. Fluſhed with ſuch

tower-

towering hopes, ſhe grew ſo imperious in her behaviour to the domeſticks under her management, that ſhe was heartily hated by them all; but the duke's apparent partiality to her, hindered them from making complaints of the ill-uſage which they daily received from her. Their places were lucrative; they were afraid of loſing thoſe places: they were, therefore, unwilling to declare the grievances under which they groaned, but they hourly wiſhed for an opportunity to remove the cauſe of them.

The opportunity which they had a great while wiſhed for, was now faſt approaching. Maggie, whom Miſs Bruce had, notwithſtanding her ſecret ſervices, treated with a particular rigour, upon a frivolous occaſion, longed, with ſingular

earneſtneſs, to expoſe her, in her proper colours to the duke, but was intimidated by the power with which he had veſted her, and by the ſway which ſhe had over him. Having overheard, however, the latter part of the converſation between the duke and her, already related, ſhe felt a new ſpirit ſtirring within her, and determined, for the happineſs of her fellow-ſervants, as well as her own private ſatisfaction, to diſcover the forgery. She haſtened, therefore, when ſhe ſaw Miſs Bruce come out of the room, in which ſhe had been ſo unexpectedly diſconcerted, in order to make the intended diſcovery, leſt ſhe ſhould by an artful change in her behaviour; or by flattering her with the proſpect of ſome future advantages, prevail on her not to purſue a deſign, which would probably

bably occaſion her diſmiſſion. — Her motion was, indeed, quickened by a needleſs apprehenſion; for Miſs Bruce was too much confounded at the ſight of her, to think of diverting the ſtorm which hung over her head from burſting upon her.

When Maggie had communicated the ſecret, which would have been, perhaps, buried in her breaſt for ever, if ſhe had not been provoked to the diſcloſure of it, by unmerited ill uſage: the Duke commended her for doing juſtice to a worthy man, highly injured by a falſe accuſation; but at the ſame time, corrected her for not having done juſtice to him before, by an avowal of his innocence.

Maggie urged in her defence, that ſhe was afraid of not being believed, if ſhe ſaid any thing againſt Miſs Bruce, whom ſhe looked upon as a favourite, and too powerful to be medled with by *her*: but, that ſhe and all the ſervants in the houſe, wondered at the very great influence ſhe had, and were quite uneaſy at it—

The Duke, finding that he had been the dupe of a cunning girl, and had deceived by appearances, acted in an unjuſtiable manner; ordered Maggie to ſend Miſs Bruce to him: telling her, that ſhe and her fellow-ſervants, would not have reaſon, if they behaved well, to be afraid of any perſon whom he appointed to ſuperintend the family-affairs.——

Mag-

Maggie, though ſhe was not a little pleaſed with the gratification of her revenge againſt Miſs Bruce, conſcious of having aided and aſſiſted her in breaking the meaſures of Sir David S—— and lady Eleanor, juſt when they were in ſo fine a train, was troubled with not a few diſagreeable ſenſations.—She was ſtill fearful, that the Duke might be deluded, by the ſmooth tongue and ſhrewd underſtanding of the defendant, and that the blow deſigned for *her*, ſhould fall upon herſelf. She almoſt wiſhed ſhe had not lodged the information againſt her, and found herſelf very loth to obey the orders which ſhe had received: but after a ſhort pauſe, ſuſpended between hope and fear, the former was predominant, and ſhe delivered her commands with a pert ſa-

tisfaction, and aſſumed a few contemptuous airs upon the occaſion, in order to render them the more galling.

Miſs Bruce, from the apprehenſions of her conſcience, received the Duke's order without ſurpriſe; but ſhe was hardly able to bear the inſolence of the meſſenger who brought them to her: having darted a fierce look at her, ſhe proceeded to the apartment in which the Duke waited for her, reſolving as ſhe went along, if ſhe was puſhed to the laſt extremity, to deny roundly the charge againſt her, and to inſiſt upon her accuſer's being obliged to prove it.—

When ſhe entered the room, ſhe, without giving the Duke time to let her know

know why he ſent for her, endeavoured to attribute the confuſion in which he had left her, to the aſtoniſhment which had ſeized her on being ſuſpected of having a deſire to vilify lady Eleanor's character, which ſhe ſhould have vindicated from the ſcandalous aſperſions againſt it; if he had not ſtopped her with ſuch abruptneſs and ſeverity.

Upon being aſked, by the Duke, with a grave face and ſteady voice, whether ſhe had not vented a great deal of calumny againſt his ſiſter; ſhe, with an unembarraſſed countenance told him, that what ſhe had uttered, was only what ſhe had heard from people who envied her ſuperior merit, and that ſhe was actually going to prove the malignity of their reflections; when he checked

checked her with a ſpeech which was cutting beyond expreſſion.

Miſs Bruce, delivered her defence with looks, and with an air, as if ſhe thought that the Duke would not diſcover the flimzineſs of it, but ſhe was groſly miſtaken: his eyes were opened before the information, which he had received from his ſervant, whoſe intelligence, indeed, made him ſee more clearly into the ſprings of her conduct, which ſhe had ſo long endeavoured to conceal from him.

"You have made ſo poor, ſo lame, ſo frivolous an apology, Bruce," ſaid the Duke, "for the confuſion with which you were ſtruck, upon my checking the torrent of malevolence which flowed from your

your lips, againſt the much injured lady Eleanor, that I ſhould have been ſufficiently convinced of the turpitude of your heart, if I had not been informed of the baſe employment in which you ſhamefully exerciſed your hand.

"What employment," ſaid ſhe, "with an affected ſurprize.

That queſtion, and the manner in which it was delivered, irritated the Duke ſo much, that he could no longer talk to her with any calmneſs—His face became inflamed with anger, and his eyes flaſhed indignation.

"What employment," replied he, with a briſk and loud exertion of his voice.—"Can you without a bluſh,

"with-

" without any emotion, pretend not to
" underſtand my meaning? does not
" your conſcience torture you ſeverely
" for having, by the infernal art of for-
" gery, divided two people, who were
" formed for each other, and who ne-
" ver, I am well aſſured, deſerved ſuch
" a cruel injury from you?— But I
" waſte time, words, and breath in talk-
" ing to you — Pack up your things
" with all poſſible expedition, for to-
" morrow morning I ſhall ſend you to
" your father, with a letter, giving him
" an account of your behaviour, and
" containing my reaſon for not keeping
" you any longer in my houſe."

Alarmed at the duke's peremptory command, ſhe ſaid, all ſhe could think of, ſhe availed herſelf of every argument which

which ſhe could preſs into her ſervice, to induce him to change his determination, and to retract the ſentence of diſmiſſion, till her enemies who had ſpirited him up againſt her, had proved the fact of which they in the bitterneſs of malice, pronounced her guilty.—The dread of being ſent to her father, made her ſtretch her ingenuity to the utmoſt to wipe out the ſtain upon her character; but the duke, not being a man eaſily driven out of opinions, which had once taken poſſeſſion of his mind, was totally unmoved at her remonſtrances, againſt the haſtineſs of his proceedings, and by her intreaties to poſtpone the execution of his deſigns till the fact alledged againſt her had been fully proved.—

As ſoon as Miſs Bruce was ſent off to her

her father, to the great joy of all the ſervants, (Maggie in particular,) who had been tyrannically treated by her; the duke received Sir Archibald Selkirk's letter from Paris, which contributed to increaſe the ſatisfaction which he felt at what he had done, before the arrival of it. As Sir David's character, had been reſtored to its original luſtre, by the diſperſion of the clouds of envy and detraction, which had obſcured it, he readily pardoned his ſiſter's breach of promiſe (as he did not diſcover the equivoque in her ſpeech to him, a little before her departure), and was glad of the opportunity, to make atonement for his precipitate credulity with regard to the reputation of her lover, by diſpatching a letter to them, which contained his full approval of their union.

The duke, very well pleaſed, with having expreſſed his approbation of the marriage between Sir David S—— and his ſiſter, was not in the leaſt diſpoſed to conceal the pleaſure which he felt; but communicated it to all his friends, who came to the caſtle, and received their occaſional compliments with a ſatisfaction truly affectionate and fraternal.

Among the gentlemen, whom the duke honoured with his friendſhip, was a major Glenorchy, who had formerly made his addreſſes to lady Eleanor, but had been rejected by her; *his* compliments, therefore, were the only ones which came meerly from the lips, without the concurrence of the heart.—The major, was a man not at all diſagreeable in the eyes of the fair ſex: much otherwiſe, he com-

commonly threw a party of them into a ferment, whenever he made his appearance among them, eſpecially on a ball-night.—Tall, young, graceful, ſenſible and ſmart, he was generally the moſt diſtinguiſhed man in the room, for what he ſaid; and for what he did; for his dancing and for his converſation.———

The major, however, was not entirely a woman's man: he had a maſculine underſtanding, and made very ſhrewd remarks upon the actions of his own ſex, not without diſcovering, a great deal of judgment, by penetrating into the ſecret hinges on which they turned. He was a man of courage, ability, and addreſs, and nice *military* honour; but in his tranſactions with the female world, he did not think that deviation from moral rectitude

titude was a thing of any conſequence—He was alſo too lax in his notions about morality, when he found a proper ſubject to work upon, among his male-acquaintance; if he could make them ſubſervient to his intereſt, by making them either dupes to themſelves, or by outwitting them, with his ſuperior ſagacity; he did not allow himſelf time to conſider, whether he was acting like an upright member of ſociety—He piqued himſelf more on his worldly prudence, than on his probity, and as he had never expoſed himſelf to the repreſentation of the laws, by his ſchemes for his own private emolument, his reputation was not publicly blaſted.—Thoſe who had ſuffered in their fortunes by his ſucceſsful dexterity, did not, indeed, look upon him in the moſt honourable light; but they wiſely kept their

opinions at home; well knowing that the *ſoldier* would inſtantaneouſly reſent the affront offered to the *man*, and that with a ſoldier of his ſkill and intrepedity, they were by no means upon a fair footing.

Glenorchy, from the time that Sir David S—— was introduced into the caſtle, as a lover to lady Eleanor, had eyed him with an evil aſpect, but there was a ſomething in his air, in his manner, in his whole behaviour, ſo commanding; he diſcovered ſo many ſhining proofs of a ſolid underſtand, and an amiable heart, that he was awed by his preſence, and felt himſelf ſuddenly checked, whenever he framed a deſign to interrupt the growing intimacy between them. The approaching nuptials, indeed, made him feel many of thoſe pangs which are peculiar to the

the inamorato-tribe, after diſappointments; but he, every day heard of the nearneſs of them, without endeavouring to prevent their celebration.—

When Sir David was diſcarded, he inwardly exulted, tho' he did not apparently triumph over his rival, and he ſaw lady Eleanor ſet off without her lover, with a ſuppreſſed delight, little imagining, that ſhe had been ſo ſly in her motions—Concluding, that the match between her and Sir David, was entirely ſet aſide, he was more eaſy than he had been while it was going on with proſperous omens and though he could not flatter himſelf with the ſlighteſt hopes, that he ſhould ever make an impreſſion upon lady Eleanor, was greatly com-

forted by thinking that ſhe was puniſhed for having refuſed him.

The Major, was not quite in a hopeleſs ſituation, till the duke informed him of the contents of Sir Archibald's letter, which were deciſive againſt him. He was too much a maſter of his paſſions, to diſcover the emotions which he felt, on being acquainted with the grating intelligence; but they gave him exquiſite diſquiet, and he determined from that moment, to diſturb an union which it was not in his power to diſſolve.

END OF THE FIRST BOOK.

BOOK

BOOK II.

IN order to carry his deſigns into execution, the major deemed it highly expedient, to procure the aſſiſtance of Miſs Bruce, as he knew, that ſhe was as much hurt by the alliance between Sir David and lady Eleanor as himſelf, (having laid ſnares for the affections of the baronet), and that her diſmiſſion from the caſtle, had inflamed her reſentment both againſt the duke, and againſt the happy pair at Paris, to a furious degree.

To her, therefore, he repaired at her father's, who was an old acquaintance of his, and propoſed a conſultation for the diſturbance of the felicity of thoſe, who had by coming together, deſtroyed *the* happineſs they had wiſhed for.

Miſs Bruce, ſmarting under the preſſure of her various diſappointments, very readily agreed to the Major's propoſal, and they accordingly plotted in concert, "precious miſchief."—

While the Major, and his fair privy-counſellor were laying their heads together, to diſturb the peace of others, their own was interrupted in a manner they little expected: that is, by mutual love. The aſſertion is paradoxical; but I ſhall, I hope, explain it

it to the ſatisfaction of thoſe who are, at firſt ſight, puzzled with the obſcurity of it. By frequent interviews, they fell in love with each other; but they could not bring themſelves to think alike concerning the terms in which they were to live together: the Major having conceived a thorough diſguſt againſt matrimony, wanted Miſs Bruce to ſurrender at diſcretion: *ſhe*, on the other hand, did not chuſe to throw herſelf under his protection without an honourable capitulation: the former was indefatigable in trying to gain his point, and the latter no leſs aſſiduous in attempting to obtain *hers*.

Provoked at her obſtinate reſiſtance, the Major ſometimes, ſtung with the rage of love, was ſo vigorous in his

attacks, that ſhe was forced to ſummon all her reſolution to her aid, and while, ſhe with difficulty repulſed them, to threaten to inform her father of the illegality of his intentions: hoping, by ſuch threats, to intimidate him, and to make him alter his conduct, as he was too intimately acquainted with her father's temper, when he thought himſelf injured, not to know that his viſits to the houſe would be inſtantly prohibited.

Prudently would Miſs Bruce have acted, if ſhe had not treated her lover with empty menaces, and happier would her following life have been; but, ſhe was, by his flattering humiliations after the commiſſion of the offences, which had extorted them from her, in ſo ſoften-

ſoftened, ſo relenting, ſo forgiving a ſtile, that ſhe never alarmed her father about his libertiniſm. Finding, therefore, that all her threats were loſt in air; he was fluſhed with new hopes, and prompted to perſevere with new ardour.

While Mr. Bruce was ſitting with his daughter and the major, one evening, a meſſenger arrived from an old friend of his, a few miles off, for whom he had a particular regard, who having been ſuddenly taken ill in an extraordinary manner, looked upon himſelf as a dying man, and earneſtly deſired to ſee him while he was alive and in his ſenſes.

Mr. Bruce, who at any time would have waited on his friend, when his com-

company was requeſted by him, and who was ſtruck with the earneſtneſs of the meſſage, prepared without delay to attend him, at a juncture deemed by him ſo critical, but not without hopes, did he ſet out that he was too premature in his apprehenſions, (knowing that he was of a vapouriſh diſpoſition,) and that he ſhould not find him haſtening to his end.——

Mr. Bruce, preſuming upon the major's honourable deſigns upon his daughter, as he conceived them to be from her behaviour to him, and being willing to encourage ſuch deſigns, as he wiſhed to ſee her well ſettled before he died, left him to finiſh the bottle, and went, attended by his ſervant, to Dr. Kincaid's.

The

The major, upon the departure of his friend, eyed his fair companion remaining, as a famiſhed lion, after having roamed in ſearch of food, beholds a feeble lamb trembling beneath his paw.—The wine which he had drank, had made him very eloquent, but, in order to improve his elocution, he threw down a reinforcement. Then, ſeizing one of her lilly hands, he preſſed it with an ecſtatic motion to his lips, and devoured it with glowing kiſſes,—"Now, my dareſt girl," ſaid he with a rapturous tone, "Now, now, you have a glorious op-"portunity to make me the happieſt "man in Chriſtendom: if you are coy, "if you are cruel, I ſhall be of all hu-"man beings the moſt abject and for-"lorn—Speak, ſpeak, my lovely angel, "my happineſs or miſery depends upon your

" your anſwer: as that is favourable or " diſcouraging, I ſhall be in a ſtate of " the higheſt felicity, or the deepeſt " wretchedneſs."—

Miſs Bruce, during the utterance of the major's lively ſpeech, which was accompanied by the moſt perſuaſive looks, reflected ſeriouſly on the dangerous ſituation in which her father had left her, and conſidering, that to parley with ſo formidable an enemy, would be to give him too great an advantage over her, determined to ſave herſelf from the witchery of his alluring eyes, and the melting ſweetneſs of his harmonious voice, by flight.

In conſequence of ſo prudent a determination, ſhe haſtily withdrew her hand from

from his, and moved towards the door, but he ſoon retarded her progreſs to it. Springing up from his chair, he claſped her in his arms, and ſaid! "Not for a "thouſand worlds will I part with you, "my lovelieſt creature, till by thoſe "enchanting lips, I have heard my "doom pronounced. Am I ſo much "the object of your averſion, that you "want to fly from me; are my looks "venemous: is my touch contagious? "do you ſcorn, do you abhor me?—

"Let, let me go," ſaid ſhe, ſtruggling with all her might, to diſengage herſelf from his ſtrong embrace, "for I am "no longer ſafe in your company."

"Not ſafe, my angel! with the man "who doats on you to diſtraction, who "lives

" lives but in your ſmiles, and who
" longs with the moſt intenſe fervor to
" make you happy."——

" No, no, — you cannot wiſh to
" make me happy — if you had my
" happineſs really at heart, you would
" ere now have fixed me your's by ho-
" nourable ties.——

" Curſe on all ties," ſaid he, " but
" thoſe which love has made,—by thoſe
" I am already your's, and ſwear by
" your ſweet ſelf, that it ſhall be the
" perpetual ſtudy of my life to deſerve
" your love: do but comply with my
" wiſhes, do but ſay you are mine, do
" but make me happy with the poſſeſſi-
" on of your delicious perſon, and I
" ſhall envy not monarchs on their
" thrones

" thrones—ſpeak, ſpeak, bright excel-
" lence, nor thus ſtruggle to get from
" me—will you not beſtow one poor
" word of conſolation, on as true a lover
" as ever breathed his amourous vows."

Miſs Bruce, ſtill making uſe of her ut-
moſt ſtrength, to diſentangle herſelf
from his arms, with which he folded her
ſo cloſely, that he almoſt took away her
breath, replied in murmuring accents—
" do, pray, Glenorchy, let me beſeech
you, if you have the regard for me
which you profeſs—leave me—my father
will wonder to find you at his return—
ſtay till to-morrow" —

" To-morrow," anſwered he briſkly,
" ſtay till to-morrow?—no, my charm-
" ing girl,— let us make each other
" happy

" happy to night, we may not live till " to-morrow—what?— not a ſyllable " in return—nay, then I muſt take theſe " languiſhing looks, for the language of " conſent; and.——

" Hold, Sir," cried ſhe, giving a ſudden ſpring from him, when he had made an alteration in his attitude, " I " am not yet quite loſt to all ſenſe of " ſhame—my love, powerful as I feel it, " has not triumped over my reaſon — I " inſiſt upon your leaving the houſe this " inſtant, and deſire you will not think " of coming to it again, till you have de- " termined to behave to me like a man " of honour."——

She delivered this ſpeech in ſo ſpirited a manner and ſo much virtuous anger ſparkled

ſparkled in her eyes, that a man leſs acquainted with the female paſſions, than the major was, would have certainly been diſconcerted by it, and not improbably diverted from the purſuit of his deſigns;—But he, looking upon the heroiſm in her deportment, as the laſt effort of her expiring virtue, and the only card ſhe had to play for the preſervation of it, redoubled his aſſiduities and renewed his intreaties; knelt, prayed, ſighed, ſwore and exhauſted all the arts of ſeduction, with ſuch ſucceſs, that he lulled all her ſcruples aſleep, and obtained a compleat fruition of thoſe beauties which had inflamed him.

As ſoon as ſhe became ſenſible of the diſgrace which ſhe had ſuffered, ſhe appeared to herſelf in ſo horrid a light, that ſhe wrung her hands, and with all the anguiſh

of ſelf reprobation, loaded herſelf with a thouſand degrading epithets for not having fled from the danger againſt which nature had not furniſhed her with the powers of reſiſtance.—Alternately ſhe, with the utmoſt ſeverity of expreſſion, condemned her own weakneſs and upbraided him for the infamy of his behaviour; for having fixed ſuch an indelible ſtain on her character, by taking a baſe advantage of her affection for him —Struck with the wildneſs of her looks, and the agitation of her whole carriage, and afraid that the return of Mr. Bruce, during her moments of frenzy, might produce diſcoveries, which would not be attended with agreeable conſequences; he, in the ſofteſt and moſt ſoothing language, endeavoured to pour the balm of eaſe into her tortured mind, —He promiſed, he proteſted, and he backed

backed his promiſes and proteſtations with the moſt binding oaths, that her ſweet compliance with his tumultuous deſires ſhould not leſſen the ardent paſſion which he felt for her.—"Be comforted, be "cheared, be compoſed, my lovely "angel," ſaid he, preſſing her hand in the tendereſt manner, to his boſom, which began again to throb with rapture, and be aſſured, that I will do every thing within the reach of my abilities to make you happy.

"To make me happy, no, Glenor-"chy," replied ſhe, mournfully waving her head, "it is not in your power—I "muſt certainly be now deſpiſable in "*your* eyes, becauſe I am thoroughly "contemptily in my own: if you had "left me, when I earneſtly intreated

" you to quit the houſe, from a conſci-
" ouſneſs that I ſhould be unable, with
" all my reſolution, to oppoſe your rapid
" progreſs againſt my peace, I ſhould
" have flattered myſelf with the hopes
" of being, hereafter happy in the enjoy-
" ment of your honourable love: but I
" ſhall, from this moment be for ever
" miſerable—— you have cut off all my
" proſpects of felicity in this world—
" ſince then you have cruelly triumphed
" over my virtue, and plunged me into
" irremediable wretchedneſs; do not, as
" you cannot reſtore that virtue, increaſe
" that wretchedneſs by your preſence—
" leave me—the ſight of a man whom I
" cannot ſee without ſhame, will only
" render my ſorrow more acute—
" Heavens!" cried ſhe, ſtarting from her
chair—" what have I done?— my poor
" old

" old father, how ſhall I meet his paren-
" tal eyes fixed fondly on me; on me
" who have planted daggers in his vene-
" rable breaſt.—Oh! that thought drives
" me to diſtraction.—There's madneſs
" in the reflection, and I dare not;——
" Hence perfidious monſter."

She was thus raving, when a knocking at the door alarmed the major, to ſuch a degree that he threw himſelf at her feet, and with the moſt earneſt, tender ſupplications intreated her to receive her father, as if nothing particular had happened during his abſence.

Intimidated by the ſound which had alarmed her lover, and dreading the ſight of her father, ſhe flung herſelf into a chair, and burſt into tears.

Both the major, and Miſs Bruce, were too ſoon alarmed; for when the door was opened, Patrick made his appearance alone.

Patrick, upon being interrogated about his maſter, ſaid that as his old friend the doctor, was dying, he could not think of leaving him while his ſenſes remained, but that he expected to be at home the next morning.

Such intelligence, at ſo critical a juncture was a reviving cordial to the ſpirits of the major, and gave indeed a different turn to thoſe of Miſs Bruce, who then renewed her intreaties to her lover, to leave her to her own reflections, and met with a ready acquieſcence: for he perceived ſome glimpſes of forgiveneſs, in her

her eyes, beaming thro' her tears, and was alſo afraid of re-kindling paſſions, which might fruſtrate the plan which he had framed for the re-enjoyment of his amorous pleaſures with her, and the gratification of his revenge againſt lady Eleanor and Sir David; whoſe conjugal felicity he longed, more than ever to diſturb. —He retired with the more ſatisfaction, as he imagined that he had by the conqueſt, which he had gained over the chaſtity of his miſtreſs, not only ſtrengthened her attachment to himſelf, but ſharpened the ſtings of envy in her boſom, by camparing her ſituation with lady Eleanor's.

When Mr. Bruce returned home in the morning, he found his daughter in a condition which ſhocked him extreme-

ly: and the ſhock which he felt was the heavier, as he was under no ſmall affliction for the loſs of his friend---ſhe was in a high fever, and not ſenſible of his approach to her bed-ſide; but cried out, ravingly, "Do you know any thing a-"bout my father—poor man! ah! that "he had not left me laſt night!"

Mr. Bruce, concluding that his daughter had worked herſelf up to the diſorder under which ſhe laboured, from a ſuppoſition that he would be too much affected by the melancholy viſit which he went to pay, took hold of her hand tenderly, and ſaid, "My dear child, I am "here; your father is before you, and "as well as can be expected."---

"Expec-

"Expected," replied ſhe, briſkly, "and ſtaring wildly at him, what did "you expect?

"I expected not to find you, my "good girl, ſo much indiſpoſed," replied he, (giving a turn to the word, on recollection) becauſe he was not willing to make her worſe by acquainting her with the doctor's death,---"but I am "very glad that I am come home to "ſee that every thing is done to promote "your recovery."---

"How kind, how very kind, you "are, Sir," replied ſhe: "but how unde-"ſerving am I," continued ſhe, ſighing, "of your affection---Ah! Sir, I am ſo "ill, that I fear it is not in the power of "phyſic to cure me."---

Mr.

Mr. Bruce, ſtill miſtaking the cauſe of her indiſpoſition, was only concerned about the removal of it, and therefore intreated her to be compoſed.

Juſt when he had uttered thoſe words, the phyſician who attended the family, and for whom Patrick had been diſpatched by the maid, a little before the arrival of his maſter, arrived.

" Who are you," ſaid, Miſs Bruce, relapſing into a delirium, when Dr. Cumyns advanced to feel her pulſe."

" I come, madam," replied he, in order to uſe my beſt endeavours to bring about the reſtoration of your health.—

" Oh,

" Oh, you are a phyſician, are you?—
" tell me doctor, can you cure a wound-
" ed conſcience: if you can do that, you
" are a phyſician indeed: but, I fear that
" you have no medicines for my diſorder
" —I am cut to the heart, deep, deep.--

Mr. Bruce, attributing her ravings entirely to the fury of her fever, was not alarmed at them, and as he had a great confidence in his phyſician, doubted not but that his preſcriptions would produce ſalutary effects--- He was not diſappointed; the fever was in a few hours lowered, and the moſt favourable ſymptoms prognoſticated a ſpeedy recovery.

The major, having ſent his ſervant in the morning, to make a previous enquiry into the ſtate of Mr. Bruce's family, was

ſo

ſo ſhocked at the intelligence which he received, that he could not prevail on himſelf to go to the houſe, in which he had occaſioned ſo much diſtreſs.— But Mr. Bruce, when he had ſtaid away two days, imagining that he alſo was out of order, as he rarely abſented himſelf from the houſe ſo long, ſent Patrick on the third, to beg the favour of his company if he was well enough to come abroad.

The major, when he received the friendly meſſage from Mr. Bruce, was ſtruck with remorſe for the crime which he had committed, which roſe to his memory in the moſt hideous colours, and did not know how to face a man, whom he had ſo capitally injured, tho' from the civil terms in which the meſſage was couched, he had no reaſon to believe that his daughter

daughter had divulged what had paſſed between them, to their mutual diſgrace, but to his particular infamy.

After many conflicting reflections, however, he determined to comply with Mr. Bruce's requeſt; apprehending, that his ſtaying away upon an occaſion which required not only the attentions of politeneſs, but the aſſiduities of friendſhip, might only cauſe derogatory ſuſpicions, and that he might by making his uſual appearance, prevent any ſuſpicions of that kind from entering into his head. He was in hopes alſo, of being ſoon admitted to his accuſtomed interviews with Miſs Bruce, as Patrick had told him that ſhe was faſt upon the recovery.

Influenced by theſe motives, he repaired to the houſe of his old friend, whoſe firſt ſalutation almoſt deprived him of that preſence of mind, which ſeldom forſook him: he was indeed ſo much moved by it, that he wiſhed himſelf a thouſand miles off.

"My dear major," ſaid the worthy man, graſping his hand, and looking at him with an amiable benignity of countenance, "I am truly glad to ſee you,— "I was afraid, that you had been laid up, "as I had not ſeen you theſe two days— "poor Chriſſy was ſeized with a fever "the day before yeſterday, which was "very violent while it continued upon "her, but by the ſkilful preſcriptions of "my ſenſible neighbour Cumyns, ſhe is "in a fair way to get well."

The

The major, tho' he was not a little pleaſed, to find that no diſcovery had been made of the tranſactions on the fatal night, which he now remembered with double horror; as the hoſpitable behaviour of his friend, made his own appear to him in a more flagitious light than it did before, and tho' he was not a little pleaſed to find that the anguiſh of Miſs Bruce's mind, to which he juſtly imputed the fever which had attacked her, had not endangered her life, his embaraſſment was, to the laſt degree, diſtreſſing, he could not help feeling himſelf the deſtroyer of Miſs Bruce's virtue; he could not conſequently, help feeling himſelf unworthy of the cordial reception which he met with from her father: he was confuſed, he was confounded: he bowed: but his tongue cleaved to the roof of his mouth.

Mr.

Mr. Bruce, in the ſimplicity and goodneſs of his heart; imagining that the concern which the major felt upon his daughter's illneſs, (as he had with pleaſure perceived their growing paſſion for each other, and fondly expected happy conſequences from it), was the cauſe of his ſilence, preſſed his hand with an additional fervor, as if he loved him the more for not being able to expreſs that concern; and ſaid, "Come, come, my dear friend: "do not let my girl's illneſs make too "deep an impreſſion upon you: chear "up; Chriſſy is a great deal better, and "will, I dare ſay, be able, in a ſhort "time to thank you in perſon for having "been ſo much ſhocked at the ſmart at-"tack upon her health.

Mr.

Mr. Bruce's ſecond ſpeech, accompanied with the affectionate preſſure of his hand, made the major reproach himſelf with double ſeverity for having perpetrated an action, the knowledge of which, and it could not be thought, in all human probability, be long concealed from him,) would wound him in the tendereſt part, and bring down his grey hairs with ſorrow to the grave.—Fully intending, however, ſmote at that moment by the ſtinging corrections of conſcience, to make all the reparation in his power, before his friend was acquainted with the injury which his daughter had ſuſtained; he threw off the dejection with which contrition had gloomed his features, and returning his preſſure, ſaid, "You give me great joy, "Sir, by informing me that Miſs Bruce "is in ſo favourable away."—

"I believe, I do," replied Mr. Bruce, "and the joy which I feel upon the occaſion is, I ſincerely aſſure you, increaſed by your behaviour upon it."

Miſs Bruce, amidſt all the diſtreſs of her mind, was flattered by the daily accounts which her father gave her, of the major's tender enquiries concerning the progreſs which ſhe made in her health, and drew no ſmall conſolation from them. Love was ſtill the predominant paſſion in her breaſt, and tho' her blood ſometimes roſe againſt him, when ſhe reflected upon the triumph which he had gained over reputation, her reſentment was momentary, and vaniſhed as ſoon as fancy imaged him before her, adorned with all his faſcinating accompliſhments, natural and acquired.

When

When the doctor had pronounced her well enough to come down ſtairs, her father ſaid to her one morning, "My dear "Chriſſy, I cannot help wondering that "you ſhould chuſe to continue in a cloſe "chamber, when you have received per-"miſſion to go about the houſe as uſual: "your looks, indeed, are not quite as they "were before you was taken ill, but a lit-"tle gentle exerciſe will greatly contri-"bute to reſtore the bloom which your "fever robbed you of. Be adviſed, my "dear child, and come down to dinner "to-day—I will ſend an invitation to "the major, who longs, if I am not very "much miſtaken, to congratulate you "perſonally upon your recovery."——

Miſs Bruce ſighed, at the word *recovery*, (tho' ſhe prudently kept her ſenſations to

herſelf,) as there ſtill remained a load of anxiety upon her mind, which all the phyſic ſhe had ſwallowed had not removed; but as ſhe really felt herſelf in a condition to comply with his requeſt, and had a ſtrong inclination alſo to ſee, in what manner the major would conduct himſelf upon her re appearance to him, that ſhe might make ſome ſort of gueſs with regard to his future behaviour: ſhe told him, after having expreſſed her moſt grateful acknowledgments for all the affectionate kindneſs with which he had treated her during her confinement, that ſhe would not furniſh him with an opportunity to accuſe her of diſobedience, by oppoſing his wiſhes.

Mr Bruce, charmed with his daughter's filial ſentiments, and chearful compliance, with

with moiſtened eyes, in the moſt affectionate manner embraced her, and then left her in order to diſpatch Patrick with his invitation to the major.

When Miſs Bruce, was informed by her father, upon the return of the ſervant, that the major would certainly come to dinner; *if he was alive*, thoſe were his expreſſions, the agitation into which her mind was immediately thrown by this intelligence, was ſo violent, that every feature, and indeed her whole frame was affected by it.—She bluſhed, ſhe trembled: her limbs were ſcarce able to ſupport her; and ſhe, probably, would have ſunk to the floor, had not her amiable parent been near enough to ſave her from falling, by catching her in his arms,—"My "dear child," ſaid the good man, hap-

pily-ignorant of the cauſe of her ſudden and alarming emotions, "why are you ſo "much ſhocked to hear that the major is "coming to dine with us? when I left you, "to ſend my invitation to him, you did not "ſeem to be diſpleaſed at my intention."

Her anſwer was only a deep-fetched ſigh. ——

Finding that her agitation increaſed, and fearing that ſhe would faint away in his arms, he conducted her to the chair which ſhe had quitted to meet him as he advanced towards her, and having ſeated her in it, preſſed her again with all the urgent importunity of a fond father, holding both her hands in his, and looking fixedly at her with the tendereſt affection, to tell him why ſhe was ſo diſconcerned

concerted and disordered at the message which her lover had returned.—

The word *lover*, struck her ear so powerfully, that she started, sighed, and lifted up her tearful eyes to Heavens, as if she was praying to be relieved from the severest affliction.—

Mr. Bruce, pierced to the soul, by her distressful appearance, and having marked the particular effect, which the word lover had upon her, was the more surprized at it, because he knew that she beheld him with partial eyes, and had reason, he thought, to believe that he viewed *her* in the same light. How, therefore, to account for the disturbance which he had raised in her mind, by mentioning him under that tender appellati-

on, he was totally at a loſs. Fancying, however, after a number of random conjectures, that her diſquietude might ariſe from an apprehenſion that the major's love for her, was not equally fervent and ſincere; as he had not made any ſerious propoſals, and that the dread of being deemed indelicately forward, prevented her from communicating that diſquietude to him; he endeavoured to comfort her by defending the major's conduct, and by inducing her to attribute his ſilence not to any want of inclination for her, but for want of conviction with regard to her's for him.—"There are "many men in the world, my dear "Chriſſy, who will not marry the wo-"men for whom they have the greateſt "affection, till they are well aſſured that "they are beloved in return: perhaps, the

" the major is a man of ſuch a diſpoſition,
" and having met with diſappointments
" in his connections with your ſex, is
" determined not to venture upon ma-
" trimony till he is thoroughly ſatisfied
" about the lady's inclination to whom
" he makes his addreſſes: if ſo (and I
" am apt to think, from the notice which
" I have hitherto taken of his behaviour,
" that I have hit upon the true cauſe of
" his ſilence), he only waits till he has
" received from you proofs of your
" eſteem for him, ſufficient to anſwer
" his utmoſt deſires.—

" Ah! my honoured father," ſaid ſhe, ſighing, while her face was covered with bluſhes, " I have given him ſuch " proofs,"—Here ſhe pauſed, and wiped her eyes, in which tears ſtood juſt ready to

to ſtart from them. "That he cannot "poſſibly," continued ſhe, "queſtion "the ſincerity of my love for him—and "a man of honour in his ſituation would "have acted otherwiſe, I think, ere "now."——

"I hope, my dear," ſaid Mr. Bruce, "that you don't ſuſpect him of any de- "ſigns which a man of honour would be "aſhamed to declare."—

"I know not what his deſigns are, "Sir," replied ſhe, in a hurrying tone, riſing from her chair, and walking to- wards the window, with a diſordered air, "All I know is, that I am not ſatisfied "with his behaviour."—

"Well,

"Well, my dear," ſaid he, riſing up too, and following her, "don't, put "yourſelf in a heat about him; I will, "pleaſe G—d, before the day is over, "come at the bottom of this affair— "things, I find, have gone too *far*.

"Too far, indeed, for *my* peace," ſaid ſhe, burſting into tears.—

"Why then," replied he, with ſome warmth, "the major ſhall declare his "deſigns before he leaves the houſe—I "cannot bear to ſee you thus diſtreſſed "about him—I wiſh he was here at this "inſtant."—

"Oh! Sir," ſaid Miſs Bruce, "you "are too warm.—

"Too

" Too warm, Chriſſy, when your " happineſs, when your honour is at " ſtake?—No; my good girl, I will " not ſleep 'till the major gives me a ſa- " tisfactory account of himſelf with re- " gard to his behaviour to you: if he " ſeriouſly intends to be allied to my " family, I ſhall encourage his viſits " with pleaſure, but if I find the leaſt " ſhuffling in his carriage, I ſhall not " ſuffer him to ſet his foot in my houſe " again."—

The warmth, with which her father intereſted himſelf, concerning her honour and happineſs, occaſioned a ſevere conflict in Miſs Bruce's mind; ſhe longed to oppoſe his driving the major to a categorical anſwer about her, becauſe ſhe feared that the *latter* would not be promoted

moted by it, yet ſhe could not, ſhe thought, without ſhewing a criminal diſregard for the *former*, offer to check his virtuous and truly paternal zeal. Her apprehenſions, however, got the better of all reſtraining conſiderations, and ſhe ventured to intreat her father to ſuſpend the execution of his intentions, till ſhe had made her remarks upon his deportment after her re-appearance.—" A ſud-
" den change, Sir, in your carriage to
" him will naturally lead him to ima-
" gine, that you entertain ſuſpicions re-
" lating to him, and, if I have any diſ-
" cernment, the diſcovery of thoſe ſuſ-
" picions will wound his pride, and pro-
" duce no agreeable conſequences—ſtay,
" therefore, Sir, till we have had ano-
" ther interview together, and if I per-
" ceive any change in his carriage I ſhall

" not

" not utter an objection to your pro-
" poſed enquiry into his conduct.

Mr. Bruce, began to grow cooler upon the delivery of this ſpeech, and as he had not himſelf perceived any thing in the major's behaviour to make him imagine that he had diſhonourable deſigns againſt his daughter; but attributed her inquietude, about him to the ſtrength of her prepoſſeſſion in his favour, he complied with her requeſt, and promiſed to behave to him in his uſual ſtyle, till ſhe had imparted her obſervations.

When the major entered the parlour, in which Mr. and Miſs Bruce, had been for ſome time waiting with impatience for his arrival, (as it was later than he uſually came on a dinner invitation) and

had

had made a handſome apology to the former for not having paid his reſpects to him ſooner, he flew to the latter, and with a countenance in which joy was forcibly painted, expreſſed the pleaſure which he felt upon her recovery in the ſtrongeſt but moſt reſpectful terms: in terms, which gave Mr. Bruce, great room to hope that he ſhould not be under a neceſſity of deſiring him to abſent himſelf from his houſe.

Miſs Bruce, not a little delighted by his apparent ſatisfaction at the ſight of her again, felt the moſt agreeable ſenſations, and returned his congratulating compliments in a manner which ſufficiently proved that her ſpirits were much elevated by them.

After

After dinner, Mr. Bruce, in order to facilitate his daughter's intentions, retired to another apartment, desiring her, as he was going out of the room to let him know when the coffee was ready.——

As soon as her father had pulled the door after him, the spirits of Miss Bruce, received an instantaneous shock, which was so violent, that she could hardley keep her seat. A thousand alarming apprehensions crowded into her mind, concerning the future conduct of a man, who had gained so considerable an advantage over her, and under the influence of her terrifying ideas, she imputed his respectfully polite behaviour to her during the dinner, to a studious endeavour not to awaken suspicion in her father's breast and make him surmize that he had taken any unbecoming

coming familiarities with her. Conſcious of having imprudently admitted him to the laſt favour; ſhe now, ſuppoſed that he would throw off the maſk of hypocriſy, and, but too plainly, let her ſee how cheap ſhe had rendered herſelf in his eyes by the ſacrifice of her reputation.

The major, obſerving her ſuddenly agitated in an extraordinary manner, to his no ſmall ſurprize (for till her father quitted the room, ſhe was quite eaſy in her carriage, chearful and chatty) gently ſeized her hand; and, preſſing it tenderly, looking at her at the ſame time with the moſt languiſhing air; aſked her, what had happened to occaſion ſo great, ſo affecting a change in her.—"Lift up "thoſe lovely eyes," ſaid he, "my dear-"eſt girl, (for they were fixed upon the

" ground,) and tell me, what lies heavy
" at thy heart, that I may uſe all my
" endeavours to remove it.—Something,
" ſurely, of a very particular nature has
" daſhed all your chearfulneſs, and I
" ſhall be miſerable till I know what it is:
" nor ſhall I be happy, when I do know
" it till I have reſtored to you your won-
" ted tranquility."

" Ah! Glenorchy," cried ſhe, ſighing, without raiſing her eyes from the floor, " my wonted tranquility can never be " reſtored."—

" Say not ſo, my ſoul's ſupreme de-
" light, do not entertain ſuch melancholy
" ſentiments."

" Say

"They are melancholy indeed," replied ſhe, raiſing up her ſtreaming eyes to heaven; "and all others, are for ever "excluded from my mind.—Before my "father, I ſuppreſſed, with the utmoſt "difficulty, the agonizing throbs, which "I felt; when I reflected upon the fatal "night.—Oh! that I could blot it from "my memory,—which doomed me to "eternal infamy;—but now; I can no "longer bear the cutting reproaches of "remorſe."

She ſtopped; ſhe could not go on; a flood of tears guſhing with rapidity from her eyes; would not permit her to ſpeak another word.—

The major, ſtruck with the exceſſive affliction, with which ſhe was apparently

oppreſſed, was almoſt tempted, to wiſh that his paſſion had not hurried him to diſhonourable lengths; but as he *had* proceeded to ſuch lengths, he had vanity enough to believe, that he might carry all the points which he had propoſed, by his connection with her, without being confined by indiſſoluble ties.—He therefore, redoubled his endearing expreſſions, and urged her with the moſt importunate earneſtneſs, not to indulge her gloomy reflections; as he was ready to inſpire her with more agreeable ones, and loved her with as much ardour as ever.—" My joy, " my life, my all;" cried he, with rapturous accents, " I cannot bear to ſee " you thus deeply diſtreſſed, after the " ſeparation, which your illneſs occaſion- " ed between us, I flattered myſelf, that " you would have treated me with ſmiles,

not

" not tears."—"But," continued he, fetching a deep ſigh, " I perceive that you " do not love me as you did, at our laſt " parting"

" Oh! Glenorchy," ſaid ſhe, looking moſt tenderly at him, " you have by " that cruel ſpeech, cut me to the heart. " —I love you," continued ſhe, ſinking upon his boſom, " But too well."

" Then I am compleatly bleſt, my " ſweeteſt angel," ſaid he, " how could I " entertain ſuch an unjuſt ſuſpicion? I " am as happy as a king, I envy not " even Sir David.

The name of Sir David, rouſed her from the tender attitude, in which ſhe lay reclined upon his breaſt; with it, the

name alſo of lady Eleanor, was conjured up at the ſame inſtant, to revive thoſe griefs, which a ſudden flow of fondneſs had lulled aſleep.

" Of all mankind," ſaid ſhe, " why " have you mentioned him ?"

" Only to inſpire you," replied he, " with a proper reſentment againſt him, " for having been blind to your beauty, " when he married lady Eleanor.

The mortifying ſenſations, which Miſs Bruce felt on the major's reply to her queſtion, occaſioned a great diſturbance in her features; on which the compliment addreſſed to her beauty, would have had, perhaps, no unpleaſing effect, if the mention of lady Eleanor's marriage had

had not entirely deſtroyed the efficacy of it.—Inſtead of pluming herſelf on her beauty; ſhe was more diſpoſed to beſtow curſes upon it, for having been eventually, the ruin of her reputation.

"Reſentment," ſaid ſhe, with an animated look:—"Yes, I *do* feel reſent-
"ment, flaming in my boſom, againſt
"him, againſt her, againſt both; both
"are the objects of my envy; be-
"cauſe they are happy in each other,
"becauſe they are *married*; both, there-
"fore, ſhall find me no contemptible
"enemy: if I can but interrupt the
"harmony of their union, if I can but
"deſtroy their conjugal felicity, I ſhall
"be happy—Happy, did I ſay, can I
"be ever ſo with loſs of honour?—
"Oh! Glenorchy! that thought: that

" thought, drags me back to a keen
" ſenſe of my ſhameful ſituation.—My
" father; O, my poor father!—Thy
" daughter's folly will break thy heart!
" —I cannot live under this load of
" guilt: a load which I never ſhould
" have felt, had I not been acquainted
" with *you*: think of that, and then,
" if you have any love for me, if you
" are not diveſted of common huma-
" nity, refuſe, if you can, to make all
" the reparation in your power, for the
" injury which you have committed
" by taking a barbarous advantage of
" my ardent affection for you.—How
" will lady Eleanor; how will, indeed,
" every creature who knows me,
" triumph over me! The reflections
" of *your* ſex upon my indiſcretion,
" will be grating to the laſt degree,

" but

" but the pointed ſarcaſms of my own,
" who make no allowances for conſti-
" tutional frailty, will be abſolutely in-
" ſupportable."

The variety of emotions, which Miſs Bruce diſcovered during the delivery of this ſpeech, the quick tranſition from reſentment to remorſe; the apoſtrophe to her father; the addreſs to himſelf, and the dreaded contempt of a cenſorious world, all combined to diſconcert him, and to throw him out of his play.-- He loved her extremely well for a miſtreſs; but, he found himſelf much leſs inclined to make her his wife, than he was before, and ſtill leſs, as he plainly perceived, thro' all the agitation of her behaviour, that he was in the full poſſeſſion of her heart; which perception ought, indeed,

indeed, to have filled him with ſentiments of honour and generoſity; but the major, it has already been ſaid, was a man, who, in his concerns with the fair ſex, did not trouble his head about the Moral Senſe.

After a tumultuous employment of his thoughts upon the preſſing occaſion; he conſidered, that, as ſhe was the fitteſt perſon with whom he was acquainted, to aſſiſt him in the proſecution of his deſigns againſt Sir David and lady Eleanor; becauſe ſhe was equally, if not more hurt, by their conjugal felicity, and particularly irritated at her diſmiſſion from the Caſtle; he could not well carry them on without her, and had nothing to do but to temporize with her, and to feed her with hopes, that he would

would give her the desired satisfaction. He, therefore, had recourse to the most plausible arguments he could think of, to prevent her from being so much shocked at her situation; exhausted all his rhetoric to induce her to rely upon his honour, and, in the most soothing, persuasive manner, intreated her to contrive opportunities for the continuation of their private interviews.—"After "what has passed between us, my dear-"est girl," added he, tenderly clasping her in his arms, "we ought to be "more firmly attached to each other "than ever; and, I feel myself, at this "instant, so transported at the sight of "your returning charms, that you will "make me the unhappiest man in the "world, if you do not grant my last "request.

He

He then embraced her with ſo much fondneſs, that ſhe was quite ſoftened by his endearments.---She looked languiſhingly upon him; but was unable to ſpeak: but upon his repeating his careſſes and intreaties, ſhe ſtrained him cloſely to her boſom, and ſaid, "Dear, "dear, Glenorchy, pity my diſtreſs--- "I know not how to act---our inter- "views, in this houſe, will be at an "end, if you do not convince my fa- "ther, that you viſit here with honou- "able views. The uneaſineſs, which "I could not help feeling, on the in- "diſcretion of which I had been guilty, "grew to ſuch an height, that my fa- "ther, this morning; finding, by the "expreſſions which I dropped; for, I "dared not tell him the true ſource of "my ſorrow, that I was uneaſy on your "account,

" account; and not being able, from the
" exceſs of his paternal affection, to ſee
" me ſo deeply dejected, reſolved to
" inſiſt upon your declaring yourſelf,
" this very day, an honourable lover,
" or of abſenting yourſelf from the
" houſe. Fearful of the conſequences,
" which might ariſe from your not
" giving him a ſatisfactory anſwer,
" unprepared, I begged him to ſtay
" till I had talked with you upon the
" ſubject, which became ſo intereſting;
" aſſuring him, that, if you diſcovered
" an unfavourable change in your car-
" riage, I would no longer oppoſe his
" intentions.—Tell me, then, how I ſhall
" conduct myſelf upon this delicate oc-
" caſion; and be quick, for my father's
" uſual coffee hour is faſt approaching,
" and I love him too well to diſap-

point

" point him, by delaying his after-
" noon's refreſhment."

The major, thus hardly puſhed, ſtood for ſome time in a collected attitude, buried in reflection: at laſt, as he found that a little fineſſe would be abſolutely neceſſary, in order to prevent his old friend from harbouring any injurious ſuſpicions, concerning his viſits to the houſe; he deſired Miſs Bruce to inform him, that he would give him all the ſatisfaction which a gentleman could poſſibly demand, if he had any doubts relating to the integrity of his deſigns.

The ſound of a bell then iſſuing from the room, in which the old gentleman had retired, Miſs Bruce, riſing haſtily, cried, " My father is impatient for his
" coffee

" coffee; have you any more to ſay?

" Nothing more, my life, only take " particular care to encourage your fa- " ther, to believe, that I have your hap- " pineſs ſincerely at heart; and that I " ſhall always behave to you like a man " of honour."

Miſs Bruce, then touched the bell near which ſhe ſat, and ordered Patrick to to bring the tea and coffee things immediately. Her father ſoon afterwards made his appearance; who, imagining from her looks, that ſhe was ſatisfied with the major's behaviour, renewed converſation with him upon a number of general topics; and told him, when he took his leave, that he ſhould be glad to ſee him,

him, whenever he was not better engaged.

Mr. Bruce, though he imagined from his daughter's looks, that ſhe was not diſſatisfied with the major's carriage to her, was very deſirous to hear from her lips, whether he had been happy in his conjectures upon her features, as ſoon as they were by themſelves; and Miſs Bruce, urged, equally by policy and love; repreſented Glenorchy in ſo favourable, a light, that her father, ſaid to her, "Well, Chriſſy, ſince the major has de-"clared that his deſigns are honourable, "I am inclined to hope, that he will not "make a long courtſhip—I grow old "and wiſh to ſee you ſettled with a good "huſband, before I die—(Nay, don't "weep my dear, for you will not loſe "me

" me a minute the ſooner for my ſaying
" ſo) and I ſhall not ſcruple to communicate
" my thoughts to him concerning dilate-
" ry woers; that is, in a jocoſe way:
" Chriſſy, for take me right; I do not
" mean to affront your lover."

Miſs Bruce, was almoſt as much afraid of her father's, ſpeaking jocoſely, with the major, upon ſo tender ſubject, as ſhe had been, of his attacking him ſeriouſly upon it; but hoping, that he was too well acquainted with the ſimplicity of her father's manners, to be offended with his innocent jocularity, ſhe made not the ſlighteſt oppoſition to his intentions.

The major, being very impatient to know how his miſtreſs had conducted

matters, ſo as to make her father quite eaſy, about his viſits to her, came the next morning early, and having entered the room, in which they were domeſtically ſitting over their firſt repaſt; with his accuſtomed familiarity; told Mr. Bruce, laughing, that he looked upon himſelf as one of the family, and could not be happy out of the houſe.

Mr Bruce, thinking that the major had given him a fair opportunity to make a home thruſt at him, about his apparent attachment to his daughter; with a laugh, replied, "Why you may, my dear ma-"jor, be related to me, whenever you "pleaſe, and live here too, ſince my "houſe affords ſo much happineſs to "you."

Miſs

Miſs Bruce, immediately looked at the major, with a face full of embaraſſment and anxiety, in order to ſee, what an effect her father's little jeſting ſpeech, had upon him, and was glad to find, that he was neither diſconcerted at, nor diſpleaſed with it.

" If you had made that ſpeech, with " a grave face, Sir," anſwered the major, compoſing his own features, " I ſhould " have been more flattered by it, for " there is not a man in Scotland to whom " I wiſh more to be related, than to " yourſelf."

Mr. Bruce, not aware of the equivoque in the major's anſwer; ſaid, " that he " very ſeriouſly ſhould think himſelf " happy in beſtowing his daughter, upon

" the man, who had made ſuch an im-
" preſſion upon her heart, and who ap-
" peared to be ſo worthy of her eſteem."

Miſs Bruce coloured.—The major bowing, told Mr. Bruce, " That he did him
" a great deal of honour, and that he
" would, whenever it was agreeable to
" him, ſubſcribe to any terms, which he
" propoſed for the alliance between
" them."

In conſequence of that declaration, with which, Mr. Bruce was not a little pleaſed; becauſe he thought, that his daughter's happineſs would be forwarded by it, a day was appointed for the adjuſting of preliminaries.

When

When every thing was ſettled, much according to Mr. Bruce's ſatisfaction, (for the major complied, unheſitating, with all his propoſals) preparations were, by their mutual conſent, made for the celebration of the nuptials; but when every thing was prepared for the occaſion, the major from day to day, continued to frame excuſes for putting off the ceremony.

While Mr. and Miſs Bruce, were in this ſtate of expectation (wiſhing that the major's buſineſs was finiſhed, which prevented him from ratifying his matrimonial engagements) the latter; finding herſelf in an alarming condition, acquainted her lover with it; who then looking upon her as compleatly in his power, *appeared* to be under a good deal of vexation at the intelligence: after having walked up and

down the room for ſome moments, involved in thought; he took hold of her hand, and tenderly preſſing it; ſaid, "My deareſt girl, don't make yourſelf "uneaſy; the buſineſs which has hitherto hindered me from fixing our wedding-day, is not yet finiſhed: but, if "you are the leaſt apprehenſive, that "your father will diſcover, what you ſo "much wiſh to conceal from him, you "have nothing to do but to leave him, "and take poſſeſſion of an apartment in "the houſe of a friend of mine, a few "miles off; in which you may be "as private as you pleaſe, and well "accommodated, till your alarms are "over."—

"Leave my father," ſaid ſhe, with an air of ſurpriſe;—"The good old "man,"

" man," added ſhe;—" ſhall I break " his heart?——

" Or, leave *me*," replied he, with a compoſed countenance.

Pierced to the ſoul, by his compoſure and unconcern; at a time, when ſhe expected him to diſcover particular fondneſs and compaſſion for her; ſhe could not remain unmoved at *his* behaviour, nor preſerve equal tranquility in *her* own. She could not help upbraiding him in the ſevereſt terms; for having, by his alluring arts, robbed her of her virtue; the immediate jewel of her ſoul: and for having ſo baſely delayed, to prevent the publication of her diſgrace.—" Cool de- " liberate villain;" ſaid ſhe, " do you " thus reward me, for my love; am I

" become, ſo very deſpicable in your
" eyes, by the proofs which I have given
" of my affection for you, that you are
" aſhamed to make me your wife.——
" Baſe, ungrateful wretch, I ſee thro'
" all your little contemptible arts, in or-
" der to render me ſubſervient to your
" infamous deſires.—But, I will ſhake off
" all connections with you; I will this
" minute, throw myſelf at my father's
" feet, freely confeſs my follies, implore
" his forgiveneſs, and hide me from the
" world, for ever."

The major, having in his gallantries, with the fair-ſex, frequently ſeen his miſtreſſes, in ſimilar ſituations, was quite prepared for the ſtorm of words, which aſſaulted his ears, made no efforts to interrupt them in their paſſage; but, when Miſs

Miſs Bruce, on the cloſure of her lips, advanced haſtily towards the door; he ſeized both her hands gently, and intreated her, upon his knees, to hear him patiently, before ſhe proceeded to ſuch extremities.

The manner in which he looked, and ſpoke, in that flattering attitude, the beſeeching movement of his eyes, and the perſuaſive melody of his voice, charmed down her reſentment againſt him, inſtantaneouſly; and the baſe betrayer, was entirely loſt, in the bewitching lover: —But, the change which ſhe felt upon the occaſion, the quick ſucceſſion of the tender, to the furious paſſions, was ſo violent, that ſhe could only lift up her humid eyes to heaven; and ſay, "What; what, "will become of me?"

"You

"You ſhall be as happy as a queen, "my deareſt," ſaid he, briſkly ſpringing from the floor, and claſping her in his arms, "you ſhall have every thing "which I can procure for you, in this "world, to make life deſirable; only "be perſuaded to manage this affair, "with a little diſcretion, and we may "bid defiance to the poiſonous breath "of ſcandal."

"Diſcretion," replied ſhe, ſighing, "Oh! Glenorchy, had I been diſcreet, "I ſhould not have reduced myſelf to "this wretched ſituation."

"Call not your ſituation wretched, "my angel," ſaid he, "while I am "ready to watch over you, with the "tendereſt ſolicitude.—But we muſt "not

" not waſte the precious moments in ſoft-
" ening converſation; we muſt poſtpone
" our pleaſures, till we can enjoy them
" undiſturbed, and in another place; for
" your removal from hence, will be abſo-
" lutely neceſſary; if you really have a
" regard for your own happineſs, or for
" the happineſs of your father:—If you
" remain here the diſcovery, which you
" dread, will only render you *both* miſe-
" rable, beyond expreſſion.—After a
" temporary retreat, you may come
" home, and make your father believe,
" that you have been married during
" your abſence.—By keeping truths from
" him, which if known, would deſtroy
" the felicity of his future life; you will
" act the moſt prudent part: hypocriſy
" is always commendable, when the mo-
" tives for it are ſo.—Dry up your tears,

" my

" my ſweet girl, put yourſelf under my
" protection, and let me alone to execute
" a ſcheme, for your removal, even with
" your father's conſent."

Miſs Bruce, finding herſelf, too much in the major's power, to think of oppoſing his propoſal with prudence, was, tho' ſhocked at the neceſſity of her retreat, ſome what comforted by his deſign to accompliſh it, with the conſent of her father, the felicity of whoſe future life depended, ſhe plainly perceived, upon his ignorance of her condition; therefore, ſhe ſurrendered herſelf totally to the direction of her lover, and only deſired him not to be dilatory in his motions, as all his ſchemes on her account might be blaſted by delay.——

The

The major was not dilatory; for he immediately went to Mr. Bruce, and preſſed him in ſo perſuaſive a manner to let Miſs Bruce ſtay a few weeks, with an aunt of his, about fifty miles from Edinburgh, who had been taken ill; and had no female relations near her; that he, from the natural benevolence of his heart, conſented to his requeſt; and two days afterwards, ſaw his daughter ſet off with the major, without any alarming apprehenſions; nay, very well ſatisfied, that ſhe was under the care of ſo worthy a man, to whom ſhe was ſhortly to be united, and bleſſed them both at their departure, not without praying for the recovery of the lady to whom they were going.

When the major, had got his miſtreſs quite in his poſſeſſion, he conveyed her to the

the houſe of a woman, not many miles from the city; who was entirely devoted to his intereſt, and obedient to his will; at which houſe, they co-habited as man and wife, hoping from the privacy of their retreat, that they ſhould not be diſcovered by Mr. Bruce; hoping alſo, that they ſhould at their return to him, make him believe, without difficulty, that the indiſſolable knot, had been tied between them, during their excurſion.

The major, thinking himſelf ſure of Mrs. Macdonald's ſecrecy, from the favours which he had formerly conferred upon her; was very well pleaſed with his quarters, and did not imagine that ſhe would give herſelf any trouble, to enquire whether he and his companion were lawfully united to each other.—Mrs. Macdonald,

nald, indeed, taking it for granted, from the decency of their behaviour, and the agreeable proofs which they gave before her, of mutual affection, that they were honourably engaged, did not even queſtion them, about the legality of their intimacy; but unluckily for the major; a niece of her's, a Miſs Monroe, coming ſoon after his arrival, to ſpend a few days with her, was ſo much charmed with his appearance, and ſo much more captivated by his converſation, that ſhe fell deſperately in love with him, and occaſioned no ſmall commotions in the boſom of Miſs Bruce.

Miſs Monroe, was a fine freſh-coloured, healthy, florid girl, well made, and full of ſpirits; but not ſo handſome, nor ſo delicately formed as Miſs Bruce; in whoſe eyes,

eyes, however, ſhe appeared a very formidable rival.—Formidable, indeed, ſhe was, but not by drawing off the major's inclinations from her; ſhe became ſo from her inability to ſeduce them; for ſhe then employed all her thoughts to diſturb the harmony, which ſubſiſted between them.—In order to gain her point, ſhe watched their carriage to each other, with the moſt vigilant attention, but the propriety of it, mortified her to an inexpreſſible degree, becauſe ſhe could not poſſibly turn any part of it to her own advantage.

Baffled by the propriety of their behaviour in her company, ſhe then endeavoured to ſuper-intend it; when they were by themſelves.—She ſeized every opportunity, to obſerve them, when they did not imagine

imagine that they were under her inſpection, and continued to over-hear their converſation, in their moſt retired moments: by conſtant aſſiduity, and unwearied vigilance, ſhe diſcovered that they were not married, and that diſcovery gave her an infinite deal of ſatisfaction; becauſe, ſhe was in hopes, as ſhe knew by what channel, to get at Mr. Bruce, of throwing them into the utmoſt confuſion.—She had alſo heard many ſecrets, which they would certainly have not divulged, if they had not thought themſelves totally private, in their apartments: ſecrets, by the communication of which, ſhe would be enabled to embarraſs them extremely, and ſhe therefore, treaſured them up in her mind, in order to diſconcert all their meaſures.

Inſtigated by the indifference, with which the major behaved to her, notwithſtanding the ſtrong overtures, which ſhe made to him; and not a little inflamed with indignation, againſt Miſs Bruce, whom ſhe deemed far inferior to herſelf, both in perſon and accompliſhments: ſhe went to a lady of her acquaintance, who lived next door to Mr. Bruce, and told her what ſecrets ſhe had diſcovered at her aunt Macdonald's, diſplaying much ingenious malevolence, under the appearance of the deepeſt compaſſion upon the occaſion.

Mrs. Murdoch, who had a great regard for her good neighbour, (every body indeed loved him, for his amiable ſimplicity of manners, and his numerous virtues) and who thought, that it was a pity

pity ſo worthy a man ſhould be ſo groſly impoſed upon by an undeſerving daughter; in conjunction with a perſon, whoſe *gallantries* had been frequently conducted with diſhonour: After having expreſſed much concern at what ſhe had heard, aſſured Miſs Monroe, that ſhe ſhould acquaint Mr. Bruce with the tranſactions, which were certainly concealed from him. In a neighbourly way, therefore, ſhe went to him, as ſoon as Miſs Monroe, had taken leave of her, (who, made no long ſtay, when ſhe had vented her intelligence; becauſe ſhe wiſhed to have it repeated by her friend) and upon being cloſetted, with him, at her particular requeſt; related a tale, which almoſt ſtiffened him with amazement.—He could hardly, for a great while, give credit to the unwelcome news.—As

Mrs. Murdoch, however, was not a woman of a goſſipping diſpoſition, nor apt to believe every piece of ſcandal which ſhe heard; he ſaid, while the tears ſtood trembling in his eyes, "Oh! madam, madam; you have broke my heart.—Chriſſy, was all my happineſs; ſhe was the comfort of my declining years, and I fondly thought, that I ſhould have ſeen her well ſettled, before I died—fooliſh girl!—and yet I don't blame her, madam; ſo much as myſelf. —I ſhould have inſiſted upon the performance of the marriage ceremony, before I ſuffered her to leave me, with the major.—Baſe villain, to take ſuch a cruel advantage of my daughter's love, for him."

He

He could ſay no more: over-powered by the anguiſh of a parent, he fell back in his chair, and wept aloud.

Mrs. Murdoch, fearing, from the agony in which he appeared, that ſhe had been too haſtily officious in the communication of her intelligence, and that it would prove fatal to him, wiſhed to have recalled her words; but as her words could not be recalled, ſhe uſed her beſt endeavours to alleviate the pain which they had occaſioned.

"Ah! my good madam," ſaid he, taking his handkerchief from his eyes, galled with weeping, "you have ſtung "me to the quick: the wounds which "you have inflicted are innumerable. "—You have acted the part of a friend

"in

" in undeceiving me; but, by ſo doing,
" you have doomed me to miſery for
" the remainder of my life.——Oh!
" Chriſſy! Thou haſt fallen a prey to
" a ſeducing hypocrite—but thou art
" my daughter ſtill!—My dear, Mrs.
" Murdoch, ſince you have, thro'
" friendſhip, unfolded Major Glenor-
" chy's villainy, will you continue to
" be my friend, by aſſiſting me to reſ-
" cue my poor child from his barba-
" rous hands?—She is not, I *think*, that
" ſhe is not a bad girl: ſhe has been
" deluded; but I do not believe that
" ſhe is corrupt.

Mrs. Murdoch, touched with the manner in which Mr. Bruce expreſſed the ſenſations which he felt, and ſtrongly moved by the ſeveral ſtrokes of humanity,

manity, as well as paternal affection in his ſpeech, readily agreed to give him all the aſſiſtance in her power; and ſincerely wiſhed that Miſs Bruce, in ſpite of what had paſſed, might, by her future conduct, render his future days happier than they were at preſent.

THE END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.